

Unusual campaigning in Distict 5
Two candidates join together over RCV;
two LGBT clubs back same candidate.
pages 12 – 13

Growing LGBT businesses
Golden Gate Business Assoc.
set to celebrate 30 years.
page 15



Life and literature
Author Edmund White
on his 'Arts and Letters.'
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

Bustos charges antigay slurs in District 9 race

by Kevin Davis

District 9 Supervisor candidate Miguel Bustos alleges that supporters of candidate Renee Saucedo yelled antigay slurs at him from a motorized cable car Saturday night, October 9.

Among the 25 passengers, which included Saucedo, several yelled at him as the cable car paused in front of his 24th and Alabama Street campaign headquarters around 7 p.m., according to Bustos.

"The first thing that came out of their mouths, one girl said, 'Fuck Bustos,' then 'Fuckin' faggot, fuck you faggot,'" said Bustos, an openly gay Latino. "We could hear it with the doors closed. So then I got up and started walking. By the time I got to the door they drove off."

"They'd been going on so long, the candidate had ample opportunity to tell them to be quiet," he said, estimating the incident took 90 seconds from beginning to end. "I just think they're being hateful."

Saucedo denied the charge. "I never heard anything like that," said Saucedo, who said she sat in the middle of the banner-strung trolley that was blaring music while people chanted over a microphone, during the two-hour tour of the Mission District beginning from her 24th and Shotwell Street home and campaign office. "If I had, I would have been



Miguel Bustos

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Russian River chamber chief dies in apparent suicide

by Ed Walsh

Residents of Guerneville are shaken by the apparent suicide of the openly gay executive director of the Russian River Chamber of Commerce, who was found dead two days after authorities searched the chamber office in connection with an embezzlement investigation.

Steve Fogle, 42, was found dead on Thursday, October 7, in a motel room in Ukiah, about 90 minutes north of Guerneville. He had apparently taken an overdose of sleeping pills, said chamber spokeswoman Nina Laramore.

"We're all devastated. It's such a shock," said chamber President Verna Preaseau.

"He was like the mayor of our little town," Preaseau continued. "He did so much for the whole community. He worked 60-hour weeks. He did as much in one year as another person might take five years to do."

Laramore told the *Bay Area Reporter* that county auditors and sheriff deputies showed

up at the chamber office in Guerneville with a search warrant on Tuesday, October 5. They took away computers and other possible evidence for their investigation. Laramore added that Fogle worked the rest of the day and didn't seem particularly upset by the search.

The following morning, Wednesday, October 6, he left for work around 7:30 a.m. but never arrived. His partner of 21 years, Mike Klugow, got a voicemail message from Fogle later that day.

"He was upset, and said that he loved him," Laramore said.

Klugow also worked at the center as a greeter and guide. Laramore said that it wasn't unusual for the couple to go to the office



Steve Fogle

separately because Fogle usually started work earlier than Klugow.

Preaseau notified the sheriff's department after Fogle didn't show up at work on Thursday. A worker at the Days Inn Motel in Ukiah found his body in his room later that day.

Sonoma County Supervisor Mike Reilly told the *B.A.R.* that the investigation was initiated after authorities received a call urging them to check the chamber's books for irregularities. That call was made in the week before the office was searched.

Reilly cautioned that the investigation is not complete but it appeared that Fogle may have embezzled about \$20,000.

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Time to open the baths, argue some

by Matthew S. Bajko

Twenty years after San Francisco banned private spaces in the city's gay bathhouses, it is time to lift the ban, argue some gay men.

When the city ordered bathhouse owners to take down the doors to private rooms, they did so as a method to combat the spread of AIDS and in response to frustration that the establishments failed to require patrons to practice safe sex. Ever since, health officials have refused to change the policy, saying to do so would send the wrong message about HIV prevention.

But supporters of lifting the ban argue it is no longer 1984, when AIDS was still a mystery and many bathhouse owners refused to cooperate with



Steve Savage

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Having fun at the Ritch Street Baths, circa 1980

Free speech turns 40

Former Democratic presidential candidate Howard Dean came to Berkeley Friday, October 8 to re-enact the top-of-police-car speech given by Mario Savio in 1964 during the height of the Free Speech Movement. About 3,000 people packed Sproul Plaza to hear Dean, Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg (D-Los Angeles), and others urge people to continue their activism. The event was the highlight of a week of activities commemorating the 40th anniversary of the Free Speech Movement and was also part political rally as Dean urged the crowd to send President Bush back to Crawford, Texas.



Jane Pflieger/CNN

B.A.R. election endorsements

President and Vice President

John Kerry and John Edwards

U.S. Senate

Barbara Boxer

Congress

Dist. 1 Mike Thompson
Dist. 6 Lynn Woolsey
Dist. 7 George Miller
Dist. 8 Nancy Pelosi
Dist. 9 Barbara Lee
Dist. 10 Ellen Tauscher
Dist. 12 Tom Lantos
Dist. 14 Anna Eshoo
Dist. 15 Mike Honda
Dist. 16 Zoe Lofgren

State Senate

Dist. 3 Carole Migden
Dist. 7 Tom Torlakson
Dist. 9 Don Perata
Dist. 11 Joe Simitian
Dist. 13 Elaine Alquist

Southern California

Dist. 23 Sheila Kuehl
Dist. 39 Christine Kehoe

State Assembly

Dist. 6 Joe Nation
Dist. 12 Leland Yee

Dist. 13 Mark Leno

Dist. 14 Loni Hancock
Dist. 16 Wilma Chan
Dist. 27 John Laird

Southern California

Dist. 45 Jackie Goldberg

BART Board

Dist. 7 Lynette Sweet
Dist. 9 Tom Radulovich

San Francisco Supervisor

[Note: Some of the recommendations take into account ranked choice voting]

Dist. 1 Lillian Sing
Dist. 2 Michela Alioto-Pier
Dist. 3 Aaron Peskin
Dist. 5 Robert Haaland, first choice
Bill Barnes, second choice

Seam Elsbend
Tom Ammann, first choice

Miguel Bustos, second choice

Gerardo Sandoval, first choice

Jose Medina, second choice

San Francisco Board of Education

Heather Hiles
Mark Sanchez
Joel Springer III
Jill Wynns

San Francisco Community College Board

Natalie Berg
Milton Marks III
Julio Ramos
Rodel Rodis

Berkeley City Council

Dist. 2 Darryl Moore

San Francisco Propositions

Vote YES on A, AA, B, E, G, I, J, K, N, and O

Vote NO on C, D, F, H, and L

California Propositions

Vote YES on 59, 60, 63, 66, 71, and 72

Vote NO on 1A, 60A, 61, 62, 64, 65, 67, 68, 69, and 70

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Bear competitors named



San Francisco entrants to the International Bear Rendezvous next February were chosen Sunday, October 10 at the Lone Star Saloon. Ron Ware, left, won the San Francisco Bear title, and Joe Carlin won the Cub title. During the contest, more than 40 toys were collected and \$600 was raised for Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt's annual toy drive.

Bay Area marks Latino AIDS Awareness Day

by Matthew S. Bajko

Friday, October 15 marks the second annual National Latino AIDS Awareness Day and a variety of events are planned around the Bay Area.

In 2003, October 15, the last day of Hispanic Heritage Month in the U.S., was selected as National Latino AIDS Awareness Day. Latino agencies around the country sponsor diverse activities that respond to the state of AIDS among Latinos in their specific communities.

HIV infection has been a fact

of life in most Latino communities throughout the United States for over 20 years. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the rate of new HIV infections among Latinos rose by 26 percent last year. Latinos comprise 14 percent of the U.S. population, but they account for 20 percent of the AIDS cases.

As of December 2002, the CDC estimates that there have been 163,940 cumulative cases in the U.S., a substantial increase of 20,000 new AIDS cases in one year. In 1996, 19.6 percent of people diagnosed with AIDS were Latino, and that number rose to 20 percent in 2002.

A coalition of community health organizations, clients, and researchers will present a series of educational activities to highlight local strategies for addressing the issue of how HIV/AIDS affects the Latino community. The local theme, "It Affects Us All" complements the national campaign slogan "Open Your Eyes, HIV Has No Borders."

This year local groups are releasing a new educational video, *It Affects Us All* with testimonies by HIV infected and affected people interspersed with dramatizations, exposing myths and perceptions about AIDS among Latinos. The video also addresses basic HIV prevention education concepts such as the difference between HIV and AIDS, transmission, window (in-

cubation) period, and HIV testing.

To mark the occasion, the following events and programs are taking place: there will be a health fair from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. today (Thursday, October 14) at Centro Laboral, 4250 San Leandro Street (at High Street), in Oakland's Fruitvale District and tonight at 6 p.m. local agencies invite the community to a screening of the new video *It Affects Us All* at La Clinica de la Raza, 3451 E. 12th Street at 35th Avenue in Oakland.

Free drop-in HIV testing will take place at various locations on Friday, October 15. Testing will be done between 10 and 11:30 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. at the Mission Neighborhood Health Center, 240 Shotwell Street at 16th Street, in San Francisco; and from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Planned Parenthood Golden Gate in San Mateo at 2211 Palm Avenue and in Redwood City at 1230 Hopkins Avenue.

At noon on Friday, the Latino Gay Men's Initiative will also screen the video *It Affects Us All* at the Mission Neighborhood Health Center.

On Saturday, October 16 an educational forum on HIV is planned from noon to 3 p.m. at the New Haven Adult School's U.C. Auditorium at 600 G Street at 6th Street in Union City.

For more information, visit the NLAAD Web site at www.latinoids.org/nlaad. ▼

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Lockyer: Tradition prevents state from marrying gays

by Matthew S. Bajko

Arguing that California's traditions do not allow for same-sex marriage, Attorney General Bill Lockyer filed his opening brief on behalf of the state last week with the San Francisco Superior Court in the city's historic gay marriage lawsuit.

"The state has a strong interest in valuing and maintaining its deeply-rooted history and traditions. California's effort to find a balance between affording rights and benefits to same-sex couples, while maintaining the common understanding of marriage, does not run afoul of the Constitution," argues Lockyer in his brief, filed Friday, October 8.

Lockyer's brief outlines a strong defense of California's longstanding tradition of main-

taining the formal recognition of marriage to only relationships between a man and a woman. However, Lockyer, a Democrat with eyes on running for governor in 2006, also attempts to strike a balance on gay rights, arguing that the valid and committed relationships of same-sex couples deserve to and do receive recognition under existing California law.

"Committed and loving relationships between two individuals deserve recognition under California law," Lockyer said. "The obligations and benefits that attend such relationships form the cornerstone of nurturing families and a stable society. For more than a century, however, the people of California have affirmed through initiative and by the actions of their elected state legislators that those obligations and benefits are available through marriage to op-

posite-sex couples, and, now, through domestic partnerships to same-sex couples. Any change to this long-standing policy is best reserved to the judgment of the voters and the state Legislature."

The brief argues that state law should be upheld regardless of what standard of judicial scrutiny is applied. In its brief, the state contends the trial court should apply a "rational basis" review, which is consistent with the majority holdings of every appellate court in the nation to consider this issue. Under this standard, state laws are presumed to be constitutional and will be upheld against challenge if they are "rationally related" to a legitimate state interest.

The attorney general argues that it is not irrational to extend to same-sex couples substantially

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District 7 candidates tackle gay issues

by Kevin Davis

District 7 supervisor hopefuls need not prove their political correctness unlike in other parts of town where a candidate's civil disobedience records give political resumes credibility among voters. But like voters throughout the city, the district's more moderate to conservative constituents care about basic quality of life issues like small business development, pedestrian safety, illegally parked cars, and graffiti abatement.

Aside from representing neighborhood concerns, in the roughly L shaped area bordered by Portola Drive, Clarendon, Stanyan, 17th Street, Parnassus, 19th Avenue, Ocean Avenue, and Sloat Boulevard, the candidates exhibit varying degrees of openmindedness toward LGBT issues in the city as a whole.

There are 12 candidates running for the seat. Mayor Gavin Newsom in August appointed incumbent Supervisor Sean Elsbernd, after the mayor named former Supervisor Tony Hall to run Treasure Island.

Vernon Grigg boasts the most extensive record of working to end homophobia through his role setting social policy on the Human Rights Commission since 2003, as well as maintaining programs enabling minority women owned businesses to have their share of public contracts. Grigg has taken a leave from that position during the campaign.

Grigg discussed the problem of citizens forced to comply to static gender assignments, and said the commission's hearing on intersex issues earlier this year had "substantial implications for the gay community."

"Nonessential medical procedures on infants with ambiguous



Vernon Grigg



Supervisor Sean Elsbernd

gender have a tremendous impact on these people for a lifetime," said Grigg. Furthermore, he said the commission "brought attention to, studied, and worked hard to create a standard for public restroom facilities that we're confident will become a model for other communities. ... It was a pleasure to work with [HRC staffer] Larry Brinken, making a contribution, and having a dialogue that was one of a kind."

Elsbernd names his work as a troubleshooter when City Hall issued more than 4,000 marriage licenses to same-sex couples between February 12 and March 11, when the court halted the weddings. [The marriages were declared invalid by the state Supreme Court in August.] While Elsbernd did not marry any couples, he helped them navigate the bustling City Hall.

"I helped facilitate the thousands of people here every one of those days," he said. "I brought water to people, directing people down the halls, running from one floor to another."

Carpenters Union Local 22 labor negotiator Pat Lakey, raised

at 17th and Kirkum, has a single broad policy around sexual orientation and gender identity.

"Sexual preference is a personal issue," the candidate said. "Everyone has a right to their sexuality, a right to be together," he said, while taking a centrist, wait and see approach to same-sex marriage. "As supervisor, I'd follow the letter of the law. I'm not against it and I'm not for it. I can see both persons' view."

Lakey recalled at age 8, peers teased a friend with a gay father. "I remember that was hard for my friend," said Lakey. "He was my buddy so I had no real problem with it."

Former Mission Police Station Captain Gregory Corrales names his improvement of Castro Halloween last year, following 2002's especially violence-marred event, as his biggest contribution to the gay community.

"The first week after [that night in 2002], we met with commission members and merchants to make it more safe, an event the community could take part in, as opposed to what it had become -

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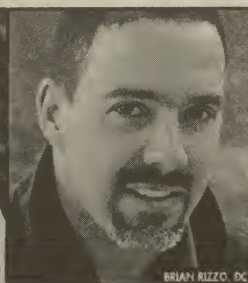
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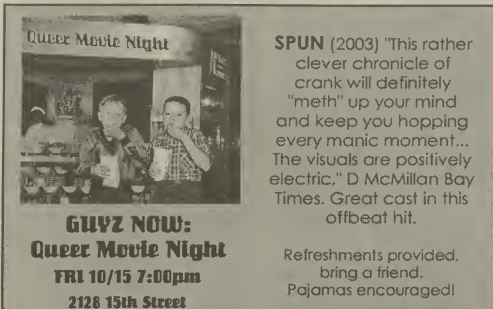
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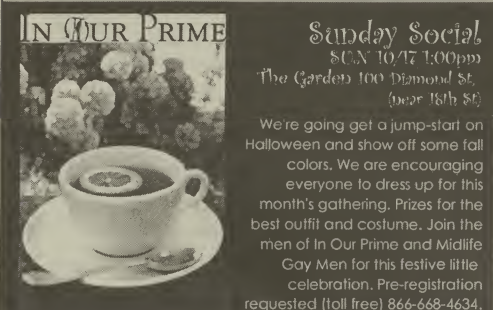
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SUN 10/17 1:00pm
The Garden 100 Diamond St.
(near 18th St)

We're going get a jump-start on Halloween and show off some fall colors. We are encouraging everyone to dress up for this month's gathering. Prizes for the best outfit and costume. Join the men of In Our Prime and Midlife Gay Men for this festive little celebration. Pre-registration requested (toll free) 866-668-4634.

STOP AIDS Project hosts a variety of different workshops, meetings, groups, social events and community forums like the one's listed above. CHECK OUT WHAT'S NEW THIS MONTH - Pick up our October calendar, call 575-0155 or visit www.stopaids.org

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WELCOME DANCE Friday, October 22, 7:30 pm-1:00 am. The Ramada Plaza Hotel, 1231 Market Street. \$12 at the door.

THE STOMPEDE BALL Sunday, October 24, 6:00 pm-11:00 pm. Sundance Saloon at *space550, 550 Barnevelde. \$8 at the door.

AND

HOEDOWN 2004 San Francisco's annual gala country-western benefit. Saturday, October 23, 7:30 pm-1:00 am. The Galleria Design Center, 101 Henry Adams Street. \$40 at the door, \$30 in advance from Rock Hard, 518 Castro Street, San Francisco.

Beagles on the move



Team Beagle was part of more than 600 registered walkers and their canine companions at the ninth annual Dog-gone Fun Run that took place in Golden Gate Park Sunday, October 10. More than \$90,000 was raised for Pets Are Wonderful Support and the San Francisco SPCA. It was the first year the two organizations combined their efforts and participants more than doubled.

News in brief

compiled by Cynthia Laird

Voter registration deadline nears

The deadline for registering to vote in the November 2 election is just days away, and people are reminded to submit a registration card by Monday, October 18 if they are not registered to vote. In San Francisco, the elections department has voter registration materials. The office is located in the basement of City Hall, 1 Dr. Carleton B. Goodlett Place. For information in other counties, visit the secretary of state's Web site at www.ss.ca.gov and click on the "Elections and Voter Information" link.

Shanti turns 30

Shanti, a longtime nonprofit organization that provides assistance to people living with HIV/AIDS and breast cancer, will commemorate its 30th anniversary at a benefit on Friday, October 15 at 5 p.m. in the Julia Morgan Ballroom of the Merchants Exchange Building, 465 California Street, 15th Floor, in San Francisco.

The event will feature live and silent auctions, hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, and music. About 300 people, including local political and civic leaders, are expected to be on hand to celebrate Shanti's past success and help raise funds for the future.

Tickets for the event start at \$75; VIP tickets are \$200. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.shanti.org or call Amy Vairetta at (415) 674-4710.

TARC benefit

"Live and In Drag" is the theme of the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center's annual benefit event that takes place Monday, October 18 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell Street, in San Francisco. Juanita Morel and Glamamore are the special entertainment for the evening, which will also include a live auction and raffle, hors d'oeuvres, wine and beer, and nonalcoholic beverages.

Awards will be presented to Christina Deeb and Gina Milano of the Bambuddah Lounge, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's HIV Prevention Project, and Folsom Street Events.

Tickets are \$100 per person and can be purchased at the door or by calling (415) 923-6982.

Electric car meeting

The inaugural meeting of the Electric Auto Association will take place Saturday, October 16 from noon to 2 p.m. at 847 Haight Street, between Divisadero and Scott, in San Francisco.

Started by *Bay Area Reporter* photographer Marc Geller and Sherri Bouchert, the EAA is an educational, support, and advocacy group for the promotion of non-polluting electric cars. Two such vehicles will be available for rides: the Toyota RAV 4 EV and the Ford Escort station wagon electric conversion. A demonstration of at-home charging and a report on the successful Greenpeace and Jumpstart Ford campaign to save Think City electric cars will also be presented. The meeting is free and open to all who are interested. For more information, call Geller at (415) 861-7278.

Sunday syringe exchange

Thanks to a \$15,000 grant from the Syringe Access Fund, the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center has started a needle exchange program on Sundays from 2 to 11 p.m. Located at 183 and 187 Golden Gate Avenue in the heart of the Tenderloin, TARC is open seven days a week, providing it with the perfect opportunity to provide syringe exchange on Sundays. Currently exchanging 7,000 needles a month during its Wednesday evening program, the expansion will double TARC's efforts in reducing the spread of HIV and hepatitis B and C, agency officials said.

"Core to TARC's mission is stabilizing the lives of homeless and marginally housed Tenderloin residents. Providing a basic service such as syringe exchange is a very important component in getting injection drug using residents to access care," said Executive Director Tracy Brown.

For more information, call (415) 431-7476.

PRC gala

Positive Resource Center's seventh annual gala, "Paradise Found," takes place Thursday, October 21 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. at the Hotel Monaco, 501 Geary Street, in San Francisco. The event includes a cocktail reception, awards presentation, and entertainment.

PRC helps people living with HIV/AIDS through return to work training programs and benefits counseling.

This year's awardees include the *Bay Area Reporter* and publisher Thomas E. Horn; San Fran-

cisco Supervisor Gerardo Sandoval; Department of Public Health workers Maria Martinez, Joseph Cecere, and Eric Ciasullo; and City College of San Francisco's Sarah Thompson.

Tickets for the event start at \$100 and may be purchased by calling (415) 677-8688 or by visiting www.positiveresource.org.

'MasQueerade' ball in Hayward

The Lighthouse Community Center in Hayward will host its third annual "MasQueerade" ball Friday, October 22 from 8 to 11 p.m. at the Hayward City Hall Rotunda, 777 B Street, in downtown Hayward.

The event, an early Halloween costume party and fundraiser, has grown in popularity, said organizer Linda Hendley, and is the community center's largest event.

Local transgender singing sensation Carolyn Kelly will host the event, and music will be provided by DJ David Friedel. Other activities include a costume contest with prizes awarded in several categories. Judging will be provided by gay service organizations the Imperial Star Empire and the Royal Grande Ducal Council.

Tickets are \$25 per person in advance and are available at www.eastbayvoice.org or by calling (510) 881-8167.

BCEF spa benefit

Zendo Spa near Union Square in downtown San Francisco has planned a night of pampering to raise funds for the Breast Cancer Emergency Fund. On Friday, October 22, from 6 to 9 p.m., guests at the spa will enjoy hand and foot massages, festive hair styling, manicures, and more, with 100 percent of the \$100 ticket price going to BCEF. A sister entity of the popular AIDS Emergency Fund, BCEF provides emergency financial assistance to low-income people living with breast cancer.

The evening will include a brief program honoring Dr. Kim Mulvihill, who appears on CBS5 news, for her health education efforts including breast cancer awareness. Honorary chairs for the event include Cheryl Fama, president of St. Francis Memorial Hospital; San Francisco District Attorney Kamala Harris; and former City Attorney Louise Renne.

Tickets are limited to the first 100 people and can be purchased by calling (415) 558-6999, ext. 3 or visiting www.bcef-sf.org. Zendo Spa is located at 256 Sutter Street. ▼

Oregon gay couple in ad for marriage ban

by Kevin Davis

The sponsors of a ballot initiative to amend the Oregon Constitution to define marriage as a union between a man and woman are airing a television ad featuring a Eugene, Oregon gay couple.

"We keep hearing about benefits that gays don't have because we're not married, but we've had no trouble getting benefits," Mike Serface says, defending ballot Measure 36, alongside his partner, Lance Kropf.

If Measure 36 passes, it would bar couples from filing joint tax returns, making a partner's medical choices, filing wrongful death lawsuits, inheriting a partner's estate and 500 other state benefits.

"While we certainly think that you may be able to legally contract for some benefits, those are only available to those who can afford it and may not hold up in court," said No on Constitutional Amendment 36 communications director Rebekkah Kassell.

"For instance, there's no way for the same-sex partner of a firefighter to force the state to provide equal survivor benefits if she's killed in the line of duty, like her married coworkers," said Kassell. "They're talking about power of attorney. Well, not everyone can afford power of attorney or it might not hold up. Their claim is

just factually not correct."

Voter polls in the state show the measure running at about 50 percent for and 50 percent against, which Kassell claimed were encouraging numbers.

"That's after our opposition has had four weeks of TV ads so far," she said. "The bulk of their donations are from churches writing large checks - Christian corporate underwriting."

Two thousand donors plus the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the Human Rights Campaign, the American Civil Liberties Union, and Planned Parenthood have donated to No on 36.

"We've raised about \$2 million - plenty of funds for a very hearty campaign in the last four weeks of the campaign season," Kassell said.

Lance Kropf, a salesman for Junction City's Guaranty RVs, one of the nation's largest RV dealers, is the brother of state Representative Jeff Kropf (R), who also hosts what Kassell described as an "extreme conservative" local morning radio show, on station KXL 750 AM, owned by billionaire Paul Allen.

Reached last week, Lance Kropf told the *Bay Area Reporter*, "I have no comment," on his appearance in the TV ad. Repeated calls to the home of Serface went unreturned by press time.

Fighting for equality

Kassell said the No on 36 campaign is about educating Oregon voters.

Others fighting the proposed amendment agree.

"I think, unfortunately, most people, straight or gay, don't have a deep understanding of the actual protections we get with marriage," said Basic Rights Oregon Executive Director Roey Thorpe. Basic Rights Oregon lobbies, educates, and organizes to end discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation statewide.

"We think of marriage as a personal commitment and a religious ceremony," said Thorpe. "We don't think of it as a contract."

These rights come into play mostly in times of tragedy, according to Thorpe.

"For instance, in Oregon married couples have the right to share a room in a long term care facility. Regardless of a contract, there's no obligation to allow same-sex couples to share a room."

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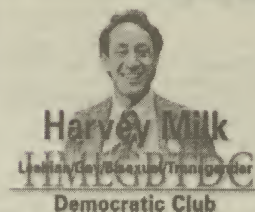
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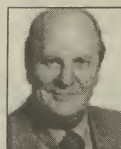
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Prop D No Recommendation
Prop E No Recommendation
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Prop G Health service Charter Amendment **YES**
Prop H No Recommendation
Prop I No Recommendation

Prop J Save city services **YES**

Prop K Maintain city services **YES**

Prop L General funds for single screen movie theaters **NO**

Prop M Removed from ballot

Prop N Send a message: "Bring our troops home." **YES**

Prop O Keep needed health services. **YES**

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Prop 61 Improve children's hospitals **YES**

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ARTS EDITOR

Roberto Friedman

POLITICAL EDITOR

Wayne Friday

ASSISTANT EDITORS

Matthew S. Bajko

Mark Mardon

Zak Szymanski

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Philip Campbell • Dale Carpenter • Aaron J. Cohen
Kevin Davis • Richard Dodds • Eric Ganther
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Adrian Roberts

AD PRODUCTION & DESIGN

T. Scott King

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

Rich Garitano

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Jane Philomen Cleland

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Marc Geller

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ILLUSTRATORS & CARTOONISTS

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NATIONAL ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE

Rivendell Media

212.242.6863

LEGAL COUNSEL

Paul H. Melbostad

MEMBER

National Gay Newspaper Guild



Bay Area Reporter

395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
415.861.5019 • 415.861.7230
http://www.ebar.com

News Editor • barpaper@aol.com

Arts Editor • bararts@aol.com

Advertising • baradv@aol.com

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OPEN FORUM

Playing the (anti)gay card

This year's district elections for San Francisco supervisors were supposed to usher in a new era of civility with the implementation of ranked choice voting. Supporters of RCV have often stated that because voters get to select up to three candidates for supervisor, those seeking office would be wise to lay off negative attacks on opponents as they crisscross their districts and campaign – the logic being that voters, so turned off by attack pieces, would choose candidates that remain above the fray.

By and large, the intended results have occurred. In District 5 this week, candidates Bill Barnes and Brett Wheeler joined forces to inform the electorate about RCV. The Milk and Alice LGBT Democratic clubs have joined together in support of District 5 candidate Robert Haaland.

But two incidents this week have shown that, in some cases, the gloves have come off – and homophobia and transphobia seems to be at the root of both cases.

In District 9 last weekend, openly gay candidate Miguel Bustos has accused fellow candidate Renee Saucedo's campaign volunteers of shouting antigay epithets while they rode a motorized cable car past his headquarters in the Mission. "One girl said, 'Fuck Bustos,' then, 'fuckin' faggot, fuck you faggot,'" Bustos told us this week. For her part, Saucedo, who was on the cable car at the time, said she never heard those remarks and would have condemned them if she had. But with Saucedo and Bustos battling it out along with incumbent Supervisor Tom Ammiano, it's apparent that the District 9 race shows signs of sinking into the negativity that has marred so many other races in the city.

Meanwhile, in District 5, a hit piece has

emerged trashing Barnes, who's openly gay, and Haaland, who is transgender, for their sexual orientation, gender identity, and their politics. San Francisco Examiner political reporter Adriel Hampton reported on his blog Tuesday that the flyer, hand delivered in the Western Addition, also urges voters to reject the three prominent Green Party candidates in the race – Ross Mirkarimi, Lisa Feldstein, and Susan King. Hampton wrote that it appears that a rival can-

didate put out the piece.

Gay-baiting has no place in San Francisco politics and should be denounced by every candidate in this election. There is a difference between legitimate policy disagreements and personal attacks on a challenger's sexual orientation or gender identity. Voters in this city are intelligent and many are deeply involved in local politics; we suspect they will see through this negative campaigning and reject such candidates accordingly. ▼



Editorial



Affordable homes, livable city: Vote yes on Prop. A

by Supervisors Bevan Duffy
and Tom Ammiano

One need not look further than the corner of Market and Castro, where our freedom flag stands tall, to remind us of San Francisco's reputation as a mecca for the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities. People from around the state, the nation, and the world come to the Castro for many reasons, one of which is to find our home away from home. We urge you to support Proposition A to allow the most vulnerable in our community the opportunity to stay and make a home in San Francisco, as we were able to.

We've heard from numerous people who want to find an affordable place to live in our city but simply cannot. Housing prices have skyrocketed with increasing demand on a limited supply. Even with the softening market, rents have doubled. A recent study found 25,000 low-income San Francisco households at risk of homelessness because their rent exceeds half of their income. A person making minimum wage in San Francisco must work 117 hours a week to afford the city's average two-bedroom apartment. Thus, many people have decided to move outside the city or even outside of California because it is too expensive to live here. This is one of the reasons why we urge you to support Proposition A on the November ballot, as it would enable San Francisco to sell \$200 million in bonds to create affordable rental and home ownership opportunities.

You might ask what happened to the funds allocated from an earlier affordable housing bond passed in 1996. The bond, also entitled Proposition A, permitted the city to issue \$100 million in bonds, matched by state and federal funds, which eventually created 2,400 affordable units. One Church Street is an example of the success of the earlier Proposition A. This development, the product of hard work by neigh-

borhood advocates, affordable housing proponents, and city officials, now houses 94 low-income families. The Church Street development has dedicated HOPWA units for people living with AIDS. Similar developments have been created all over San Francisco, from the Bayview to the Mission to the Richmond, even on Treasure Island.

Despite the strides we made with One Church Street, the need has become substantially greater. Many low-income San Franciscans are forced to choose between rent, food, and medicine. Those within our community who suffer from an illness, be it breast cancer, HIV/AIDS, or another, are forced to choose between paying their rent and getting the health care they desperately need. Proposition A will create the type of housing that these persons need most, and end the vicious cycle of choice. Additionally, Proposition A renews San Francisco's commitment to affordable housing and takes the next big step in our efforts to permanently reduce homelessness. The bond allows for \$200 million to be allocated to assist those in need of supportive housing, affordable rental housing, as well as home ownership.

What do we mean by supportive housing? Supportive housing assists men, women, and children by targeting their specific needs and offering the services they need at the housing facility itself. For example, people who suffer from mental illness would be able to access psychiatric services at the facility where they live. People in need of drug treatment could obtain medication and other services, while those in need of job training could get the assistance they need. Proposition A dedicates \$90 million to create supportive housing.

Additionally, Proposition A would develop affordable rental housing that serves households headed by women, families with children, and seniors. These units would

help those currently at risk of being homeless. Proposition A requires that \$60 million be spent on affordable rental housing.

It is no secret that home ownership opportunities for low and middle income San Franciscans are severely limited. Right now, only 12 percent of San Francisco households can afford an average home in our city. That's why we're supporting Proposition A, which dedicates \$50 million toward the development of new homes and helps those in need purchase homes with down payment assistance. These funds would be used to enable working San Franciscans, like nurses and teachers, to purchase homes in places where they treat and teach. Proposition A creates an unprecedented opportunity to allow people to buy affordable homes in San Francisco.

Community groups like Open House and the AIDS Housing Alliance exist to create, advocate, and fight for housing for our community. Open House's mission is to create a housing community for seniors. The AIDS Housing Alliance plans to offer people with AIDS a clear source of down-payment assistance to break into the homeownership market on a limited income. We pledge to work with these organizations and others to ensure that our community gets its fair share from the proposition.

Like the earlier bond, we would be able to leverage millions of dollars in state, federal, and private matching funds to create more housing. It is estimated that Proposition A could create some 3,300 affordable housing units for our city.

For all these reasons, we strongly urge you to support Proposition A – a crucial step toward renewing our community's commitment to help those in need of housing. This proposition requires a 67 percent majority to pass. By voting for Proposition A, you will allow others the opportunity to call San Francisco home. ▼

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

'Delighted' with endorsement

I have been a member of the Green Party for six years. I admire Ross Mirkarimi for his many years of work in founding and building the California Green Party, and, in particular, his leadership as the state director of Ralph Nader's presidential campaign in 2000.

Nevertheless, I will always support the best candidate for a given office, without regard to party affiliation. I am therefore delighted that the *Bay Area Reporter* has endorsed Robert Haaland for District 5 Supervisor. As one of many San Franciscans who could not live here without rent control, I owe a great deal to Robert for being at the forefront of every battle to protect rent control and tenants' rights that has taken place in San Francisco in recent years. As a straight person whose personal freedom and quality of life are enhanced exponentially by the contributions of queers to the human community, I am thrilled at the prospect of our district being represented by the first transgender elected official in the United States. Robert's prodigious knowledge of city government, his vital role in the resurgence of grassroots politics in San Francisco, and his effective advocacy and support for numerous public health and social services threatened with budget cuts in recent years are only a few more of the reasons I support his candidacy.

I first met Robert in 2000, when many of us were working our tails off to elect independent, progressive supervisors to the board. The possibility that he himself could soon serve on the Board of Supervisors fills me with hope. And you gotta give 'em hope.

Monica Brennan
San Francisco

Bush is wrong

Don't Republicans care about young Americans dying in Iraq, in a war at the wrong time, in the wrong place, for the wrong reason?

What a ludicrous illusion it is to suggest that if young Americans die in Iraq, Americans won't be killed by terrorists in the U.S. Total nonsense, but which people believe because of irrational fear of the terrorist bogeyman our president has conjured up.

In Vietnam, 57,000 Americans died before we came to our senses. How many thousands more must die and how many tens of thousands more must be maimed in Iraq, before the futility of our efforts and the loss of life registers?

Is the Republican Party truly the "Party of Mean"? Mean to our allies, mean to Iraqis, mean to the environment, mean to gays, mean to civil rights, mean to opponents through name calling, mean to colleagues (on the Senate floor)?

Since our president keeps telling us what hard work his job is and how difficult it is for him to make decisions, let's make it easy for him and elect John Kerry president.

John Schank
San Pablo, California

Who's minding the store, anyway?

As a resident of the Castro District I can't help noticing the decrease in police presence, particularly in the evening hours. Most of us know Officer Frazier, and I think we all agree that she does a fabulous job, but she can't be around day and night. My insiders on the force tell me that on any given night it is a rare occasion to find an officer assigned to handle the Castro area (and, by the way, Noe Valley as well). Do I get a sense that City Hall doesn't feel a connection to our high tax-paying community? Mayor Newsom has decided to increase the presence of police in the Mission District, but not a mention was made of the decline in the quality of life in the Castro. Walking down any street in the Castro can find homeless camped out in our doorways, drunk and combative. The sidewalks reek of urine and late at night one is afraid of who they may encounter.

I urge the mayor, Supervisor Dufty, and Chief Fong to take an unannounced, not staged for the media, walk on Castro Street any Thursday, Friday, or Saturday afternoon or evening and see for themselves. Castro merchants and residents should not allow our district to be treated with such little respect.

Jason Brown
San Francisco

A complex opera

Portraying Britten & Forester's opera *Billy Budd* as a psychological drama of Claggart and Vere's suppressed love for Billy does not do justice to a profound and complex opera [*Sailor's song*, October 7]. True, Claggart and Vere's love of Billy is part of the mechanics of the plot, but the important point about even this mechanism is not that they love Billy, it is why they love Billy. Billy isn't just good in some abstract sense, or just good-looking. In this case "good" has content - Billy is kind, generous, happy and full of life, plunked down in a cruel, unjust microcosm (the British Frigate), fighting for an evil end (the suppression of French democracy).

The real exploration of the opera is not any psychological nonsense, much less is it a "love" story, it is

about morality and the choices people make. It asks the question of whether it is really possible to have any sort of "morality" or true goodness and aliveness of Billy's sort in an immoral world/social situation that requires compromises of morality and conscience in order to survive. Character after character, even Claggart, says in effect, "I know what I am doing is wrong, but I am forced to do it by fate." Some act evilly and know it, like Claggart, the novice and Vere, and others such as the enslaved crew (including Billy) fighting against the republican French are complicit in evil with only a dim awareness of it. The point of reference for us is to examine our own moral complicity in our participation in a society that ignores the poor, destroys the environment and is intent on imperial domination of the world's economy. What affect do our moral compromises have on our capacity to be truly alive and happy? Are we really forced to participate by "fate"?

What is devastating at the end to the audience, and perhaps the crew, isn't that Billy is destroyed for bringing justice to Claggart, it is that Billy is at peace with his own "just" punishment and can forgive Vere. Britten and Forester suggest that there may be, after all, a tenable moral stance that includes acceptance of the moral imperfection of the world and of ourselves, and a possibility of inner peace. If only Orestes had been so lucky.

Alan Martinez
San Francisco

Don't forget bisexuals

Roberto Friedman's recent column [*"Sex and the city's tabloids," Out There, September 30*] contains several problematic inconsistencies. To characterize Patricia Highsmith, who, according to Friedman, had both male and female lovers, as a lesbian makes little to no sense, in light of that fact that she could have just as easily have been bisexual. In fact, I

would encourage Friedman to err on the side of caution and describe anyone who has had male and female lovers as bisexual, unless he has information that the person identifies in another way. To do otherwise is to foster an erasure of the bisexual experience and an alienation of your bisexual readership.

Likewise, Friedman implies that Cynthia Nixon is a lesbian ("happy like gay happy" and "commenced a hot lesbian romance"), while stating that she has had male and female partners (her ex-boyfriend and current girlfriend being the partners discussed in the column). Again, it's just as likely, if not more, that someone with male and female partners, like Nixon, might identify as bisexual and describe herself as having commenced a hot bisexual romance or same-sex romance, rather than characterizing her relationship with the use of monosexual terms like lesbian. To say, as Friedman later does, that Eleanor Roosevelt had a "lesbian relationship" is inconsistent with the fact that the woman had male and female partners. A lesbian relationship is one between two lesbians. I don't believe that Roosevelt identified as a lesbian, so why characterize her relationship as such? It would be more accurate to use the phrase "female relationship" or "same-sex relationship" or just "relationship" to describe the link between her and Lorena Hickok. Using this more accurate, bi-friendly language in future when reporting on the lives of those who partner with both men and women would be much appreciated.

Amy Andre
San Francisco

In defense of 'Cookie Dough'

Re: John Sugar's mean-spirited letter last week about "Cookie Dough" at the Castro Street Fair: John, it may interest you to know that the reason Cookie talked for 45 minutes is because the Tubes took three times as long to set up as any other performer that day. Cookie was put in the unenviable position of having to stall for time while the "comeback headliner" predictably behaved like self-centered prima donnas.

The situation reminds me of when I came out about 12 years ago and upon answering an ad for "gay writers and musicians," I found myself ringing your doorbell in the Haight. You proceeded to blather on about how you were the first gay artist to record a rap single and had me listen to it over and over while I contemplated my escape. I can personally attest to the fact that you've scared off more potential young gay artists from your organization than you've collected due to your creepiness.

As for "whoever booked Cookie should be shot": The same person who hired her also hired your beloved Tubes; that info is available on the Castro Street Fair's Web site. My advice to you, Mr. Sugar, is to think a little more about what it means before you dash off a letter criticizing other members of the community. The local gay papers enjoy airing petty disagreements. And we wouldn't want them thinking that you're some kind of community leader or your endorsement of a candidate actually means something, would we?

William P. West
San Francisco

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Cinematic discomfort

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

In 1996, I attended a transgender conference in Atlanta, called Southern Comfort. While there – and over successive years – I had the pleasure to meet many wonderful people. One of these was a man who always stood out to me, and who I looked for every year. His name was Robert Eads.

In 1999, during a keynote speech at the conference, Robert told all of us that he had cancer and would soon be leaving us. It was a somber, sad moment, one that none of us wanted to even think about.

By the 2000 event, he was gone. The conference attendees got a sneak preview of a documentary about Robert instead, called appropriately enough, *Southern Comfort*. In it, he was immortalized as the man he was, surrounded by his lover, a male-to-female transwoman named Lola, and his friends: Max and his then-partner Cori, and Cas and his non-transgender partner, Stephanie.

It was a beautiful documentary that did a good job of catching these people I met during visits to Atlanta. It did such a good job that it's hard for me to watch without tearing up, just thinking of the simple injustice of doctors who would not treat him for ovarian cancer because their other patients would be embarrassed. It also makes me smile, seeing Robert's dignity in spite of the pain, seeing the love that he and Lola shared, and watching the

friendship between Robert and his best buddies.

I tell you this because there is a dramatization of this story that has just recently been announced, and I may have my biases as I speak of this film. I know I may be simply too close to the subject matter.

Nevertheless, I find myself troubled by this possible feature film, mainly for the casting choices thus far presented in the media.

Sissy Spacek has been named to play Robert Eads, with Alan Cumming pegged for Lola. Playing Robert's friends will be Melissa Etheridge (bar-

ring issues with her cancer treatment) and Demi Moore.

These are all fairly big names, and can only help make this film all the bigger. While I do like the idea that this story will be able to touch the hearts of so many more who would never deign to watch a documentary – let alone one about involving transgender people – I still find myself with reservations. Some of those are personal, and are clearly because I am too close to those whose lives are in this story. For example, I can't see thin, pretty, dark-haired Demi Moore playing a stocky, handsome, naturally redheaded man named Max. It just isn't computing.

It is more than personal, though. What I am most concerned with is a simple case of gender. To illustrate, let me bring

up another big transgender-themed film. So large, it won the Academy Award for Hilary Swank: *Boys Don't Cry*.

In *Boys Don't Cry*, we meet Brandon Teena, a still very new female-to-male transgender. Due to the nature of his birth sex and his own transsexuality, he is raped, and later murdered.

I get asked about Brandon often, thanks to my work on anti-transgender violence. I also get a lot of letters about Brandon from a link to the Remembering Our Dead Web site from the official Web site for the film. There is one thing that seems to be a common thread with most of these

letters, and it's that Brandon is called "she."

On a couple of occasions, I questioned people as to their choice of pronoun for Brandon. Universally, the answer was the same: Hilary Swank played the role, and she's a woman. So they saw a woman who was "pretending" to play a man, and ergo, Brandon too was a woman in a costume.

That is exactly my worry with this announced *Southern Comfort* movie. When people see Sissy Spacek on the screen, dressed up and wearing a faux beard, will they see Robert Eads as the man

that he was, or will they assume that he too is really just a woman "pretending" to be something she is not? To the average moviegoer, will Alan Cumming be a "man in a dress" named Lola, or a woman of the same name?

Now perhaps the filmmakers want to get us, the audience, to challenge our assumptions of gender by making the casting choices they did. They want to make us think about the flexibility and fluidity of gender. That in itself is a good thing. Nevertheless, I also feel that rather than presenting that challenge, they could very well reinforce stereotypes with an otherwise lazy movie-going public used to computer generated special effects and spectacle.

What would I want? Perhaps male actors for the parts of men like Robert, and female actresses to play women like Lola. I would like to see them played for whom they are, rather than what they are not – and that is what we may have right now.

Of course, I'd really prefer to see transgender performers get those parts. I won't name names,

but they are out there – and some are comfortable with their history. They would not have the star power of those they've brought into the project, of course, but they would be true to the part. Heck, if it were a good film, perhaps these rare folks would have some star power to wield.

If anything, I'd prefer to see actors and actresses portray the reality of Robert, Lola, Max, Cori, and Cas. I am biased, yes, but they were very much what they said they were, and that is what needs to come across. Anything less fails their story. ▼

Gwen Smith's name can be found in the *Southern Comfort* documentary, if you look hard enough. You can find her on the World Wide Web at www.gwensmith.com.



Christine Smith

Transmissions

Lockyer

◀ page 3

all the rights and benefits afforded to married couples while maintaining the common and traditional understanding of marriage. In fact, as of January 1, 2005 when AB205 goes into effect, the state will afford domestic partners the same rights and responsibilities it now gives to married couples.

In another example of the tightrope Lockyer finds himself on, the attorney general's brief also rejects, as contrary to California policy, certain arguments that have been used in other states to justify laws prohibiting recognition of same-sex marriages. In some states, opponents of same-sex marriage have alleged that same-sex relationships are less committed or stable than opposite-sex relationships, and that same-sex couples would place children at risk. Lockyer dismisses these arguments as false and inconsistent with California law, which extends to registered domestic partners the "same rights,

protections, and benefits" afforded opposite-sex spouses.

In an apparent acknowledgment that the Legislature will be taking up the issue of gay marriage next year, when Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) reintroduces his Marriage License Nondiscrimination Act, Lockyer argues in his brief that because of the significant policy implications associated with defining marriage under California law, the legislative and electoral processes are the appropriate avenues for making changes in the future.

Through his spokesman Matt Dorsey, City Attorney Dennis Herrera attacked Lockyer's arguments, saying they only further

deny gays and lesbians equal protection under the law.

"The state is advancing a separate-but-equal doctrine that would relegate gays and lesbians to second-class status under the law. It further seeks to deny the judiciary its rightful role as the ultimate guardian of civil liberties. We don't believe the state makes a convincing case to uphold discriminatory marriage laws," said Dorsey.

The case is *City and County of San Francisco v. State of California* (Judicial Council Coordination Proceeding No. 4365, "Marriage Cases"; San Francisco Superior Court Case No. 429-539, consolidated with no. 504-038). No trial date has been set. ▼

Oregon couple

◀ page 5

"The key piece here is that, what marriage does, it's a way the state recognizes and records two people becoming primary family members, recognizing they have chosen to be each other's number one, unassailable priority as well as a safety net of protections and benefits," said Thorpe.

Help from SF

Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin, the first same-sex couple to be married in San Francisco earlier this year, are helping defeat Measure 36. The women send out a fundraising appeal last week. Mayor Gavin Newsom is hosting a fundraiser next week.

"You can merge your money, you can do a lot of legal things, but you still don't get half or even a quarter of the things you get if you're married," said Lyon, who met her partner, Del Martin, when the women founded the Daughters of Bilitis 51 years ago.

"What we don't have if we were married is Social Security, for instance. We're both on Social Security. If one of us dies our income is

cut in half just like that, and that's true for younger folks."

"Even domestic partners are second-class citizens," Lyon added.

Oregon's Multnomah County issued 3,000 marriage licenses to same-sex couples for seven weeks in March and April this year, before a judge stopped them while the state Supreme Court weighs a legal challenge.

Voters in Oregon have decided on gay rights measures before. State residents voted down antigay propositions in 1992, 1994 and, narrowly, 2000's Measure 9 that would have outlawed public classroom discussions of LGBT issues.

Ten other states are voting next month on constitutional amendments that would ban same-sex marriage. ▼

Newsom hosts a No on Constitutional Amendment 36 fundraiser next Friday, October 22, from 5 to 7 p.m. at the San Francisco Performing Arts Library and Museum, 401 Van Ness Avenue, 4th Floor. For tickets (starting at \$100), call Stephanie at (408) 297-4052, ext. 226 or e-mail stefanie@sgrconsultants.com

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POLITICS

GOP expected to keep control of House

by Wayne Friday

With Democratic presidential nominee **John Kerry** having pulled even with **George W. Bush** in most of the national polls, giving new hope and excitement to the Democratic Party's chances of winning the White House next month, party strategists do not hold out as much hope for regaining control of the House of Representatives. The Senate, however, is a different matter, and party strategists believe the Democrats have a chance of retaking that body.

With Republicans currently controlling the House with 229 seats to the Democrats' 206 (including one friendly independent; there are also two current vacancies) the Democrats would have to pick up 13 GOP-held seats on November 2 to gain a bare majority. If Kerry wins – and many pundits feel that with less than three weeks until Election Day, he now has the momentum – he is likely to carry some closely-contested U.S. Senate races for his party as well, and maybe even pick up a couple of GOP House seats. Democratic House victories in special elections held earlier this year where Republicans had held the seats, in Kentucky and South Dakota, clearly show that they have a formula for winning GOP-held seats; however, those two victories were offset later in the year when two House members elected as Democrats from Texas and Louisiana switched their party allegiance to the GOP.

Most political analysts feel that there are actually fewer than 35 competitive House races next month, with each party facing 15 to 17 at-risk seats. So, for Democrats to regain the majority that they lost a decade ago, they would pretty much have to win every open seat and hold all their own as well. In other words, as one Democratic analyst put it this week, "We'll not only need a strong political breeze at our back, we'll need a hurricane."

The Democratic Party's task in the House of Representatives is pretty daunting and is not likely. The Democrats could win all eight of their competitive open seats (the GOP now holds five of those), and re-elect each of their endangered incumbents, and still fall short of the majority.

Top Democrats, including House Minority Leader **Nancy Pelosi** of San Francisco and House Minority Whip **Steny Hoyer** (D-Maryland), are not about to give up on the seemingly slim possibility that they could retake control of the lower house of Congress, however, and both are traveling to battleground districts to help their nominees raise money and attract voters. Pelosi, a tireless campaigner and proven fundraiser, is particularly hopeful: "We proved the pundits wrong earlier this year when they said we couldn't win those Republican-held seats in Kentucky or South Dakota, and we'll prove them wrong again next month; we're going to surprise some people. We have the good candidates. We have the strong issues. We are ready to



Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) was honored for his work on transgender and LGBT rights by the Gays and Lesbians Organized for Betterment and Equality at the group's annual event in Hayward Saturday, October 9. From left, Bill Swenor, Marvin Burrows, Leno, and GLOBE chair Charlene Shores. Leno performed Swenor and Burrows' wedding earlier this year; the couple have been together more than 50 years.

go; yes, there will be some surprises."

Politics and people

As expected, San Francisco school board candidate **Joel Springer III** received the endorsement of the local Log Cabin chapter, a group for gay Republicans, on October 5.

Springer, who serves as the group's vice president, was not so lucky with the local Republican Party. For the second time the San Francisco Republican County Central Committee snubbed Springer, even though the

party had recruited him to run in the race. After disingenuous at its September 8 endorsement meeting, the Republicans reopened their endorsement process Thursday, October 7. Springer fell two votes short of the 15 he needed to win backing from the party.

In San Francisco's District 1 supervisorial race, candidate **Lillian Sing** got a big boost last weekend when Mayor **Gavin Newsom** campaigned for her along busy Clement Street in the Richmond, drawing large, very friendly crowds; Sing will make an excellent Supervisor for District 1.

And those who know these things tell me that **Janet Reilly**, a class act if ever there was one, is seriously thinking of running for **Leland Yee's** 12th District Assembly seat when Yee runs for state Senate in 2006 (reading this, **Fiona Ma?**).

A race in the normally Democratic 21st Assembly District stretching from South San Jose into San Mateo has become very interesting. Republican multimillionaire **Steve Poizner**, a Silicon Valley CEO, has dumped more than \$4 million of his money into the race; voters in Assembly District 21 should be turned off by this crass election-buying attempt and vote for Democrat **Ira Ruskin** on November 2.

There are currently 14 women members of the U.S. Senate and 60 women in the House, but look for those numbers to increase after next month's general election. Indeed, in 11 House races, Democratic and Republican women are facing off in contests, including three open races in Pennsylvania,

Florida, and Georgia.

Here in California, with less than three weeks until the election, U.S. Senator **Barbara Boxer** (D), with a lead over her GOP opponent, **Bill Jones**, ranging anywhere from 17 to 20 percentage points, hasn't agreed to a second debate, and don't expect her to. With most voter attention focused on the Kerry-Bush race, and with a new *Survey USA* poll this week showing Boxer with a healthy 17-point lead, there is no reason for the popular senator to agree to do anything to contribute to getting the awareness and attention drawn to the senate race. With Boxer being highly visible on TV for the past two weeks, most sources (even those within the state GOP) privately say it's all over for Jones.

According to rumors racing across the Internet for the last week, the rectangular bulge clearly visible between President Bush's shoulder blades (along with a somewhat visible wire) during the first debate was a radio receiver, transmitting answers from an off-stage counselor into a hidden presidential earpiece. The White House, predictably, is laughing off such suggestions, but some reporters in the auditorium aren't so sure and the prime suspect is **Karl Rove**, Bush's powerful political adviser (so, that explains Bush's repeated pauses before his answers).

Meanwhile, the president was put on the defensive repeatedly last week during the second debate, but it wasn't the Democrats' doing. First, former occupation administrator **Paul Bremer** told an audience "We never had enough troops on the ground" in Iraq to prevent looting and lawlessness. The same day, Defense Secretary **Donald Rumsfeld**, long a bush toad, was asked to describe the connection between former Iraqi leader **Saddam Hussein** and al Qaeda. He replied: "I have not seen any strong evidence that links the two." A week earlier, Secretary of State **Colin Powell**, in a rare departure from the administration's positive talking points, acknowledged that the insurgency in Iraq is strengthening and that anti-Americanism in the Middle East is increasing. "Yes, it's getting worse," he said of the insurgency on ABC's *This Week*.

From Los Angeles comes word

page 12 ►

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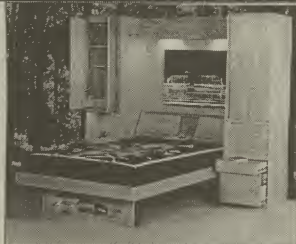
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Double-talk in the
presidential campaign

by Dale Carpenter

Every public discussion of gay issues in America is packed with ambiguity, nuance, and double-meaning. This is an egalitarian and liberty-loving country with strong religious faith: Majorities oppose antigay discrimination in employment and in the military, but also oppose gay marriage and still believe that homosexual acts are immoral. While most people are comfortable having a gay co-worker, they'd never want a son or daughter to be gay. The presidential campaign has reflected, and the candidates have manipulated, the country's deep ambivalence about homosexuality.

George W. Bush has developed a stock response to almost any gay-related question. It involves both substantively opposing gay equality and rhetorically reassuring everyone he's not a bigot, all without ever using the word "gay."

Consider Bush's various statements on gay marriage over the past year. Collected and condensed, they amount to this: "I believe marriage is between a man and a woman. Activist judges and local officials are trying to change this definition, so we must protect marriage. But as we debate this, let's treat everyone with dignity and respect."

The man-and-woman mantra of the first sentence enjoys 70 percent support in elections, but especially appeals to religious conservatives. The second sentence exploits populist resentment of the judiciary. The third sentence, Bush's dignity-and-respect mantra, pivots to reassure gays and their friends and families that Bush doesn't hate gay people.

No matter what the question, Bush almost never actually uses the word gay. (He never uses the word homosexual, either. It is too clinical and old-fashioned for some, too explicit for others.) A substantial part of his political-religious base rejects the idea that there are, properly speaking, "gay people" or homosexuals. The words homosexual or gay for

them are adjectives, not nouns. They describe an act, not a person.

Any time the subject comes up, Bush wants gays and gay-friendly people to interpret his words as a humanitarian concession without having religious conservatives interpret them as any kind of political concession. It is a nice rhetorical trick that plays on the hopes and fears of everyone.

John Kerry has a different challenge but plays similar rhetorical tricks. While he has a long Senate record of supporting gay equality, he never mentions gay issues in his presidential campaign unless asked about them.

Even when asked, his answers have gotten increasingly Delphic. His stock response on gay issues now involves confirming he supports liberty while reassuring us he's not for license.

So while he supported letting gays serve in the military during the Democratic primaries, Kerry has since voiced concerns about "unit cohesion" and morale. These are code words for opposing gays in the military.

On gay marriage, Kerry always deploys the man-and-woman mantra. (See above.) Asked to defend his position, he invokes his "religious" convictions. That's a nod to religious conservatives.

When Missouri passed a state constitutional amendment banning gay marriages even before a single judge there had ordered the state to recognize such marriages, Kerry told the mainstream media he had "no problem" with the amendment. Advised later by a gay reporter that the amendment also banned civil unions, Kerry said he opposed it. Informed still later that the amendment did not in fact ban civil unions, his campaign said he had no position. So, as Kerry might put it, he actually did support the amendment before he opposed it before he was neutral.

Most richly ambiguous of all was the performance of John Edwards in the vice presidential debate. Asked about gay marriage, Edwards peppered his response with the man-and-woman mantra no fewer than three times while declaring his opposition to

a constitutional amendment and his support for largely unspecified "benefits" for gay couples.

And here is how Edwards began his answer: "Let me first say that I think the vice president and his wife love their daughter. I think they love her very much. And you can't have anything but respect for the fact that they're willing to talk about the fact that they have a gay daughter, the fact that they embrace her. It's a wonderful thing. And there are millions of parents like that who love their children, who want their children to be happy."

Highlighting the homosexuality of an opponent's child is a very odd way to begin an answer. While the moderator's question itself had vaguely referred to Cheney's "family experience," nothing in it stated that Cheney's daughter is gay. Edwards must have known that his own comments would be the first time millions of people would hear about it. Why would he introduce this fact into a nationally televised debate?

To many listeners, Edwards's answer humanized the gay-marriage issue by calling attention to the effect that denying marriage has on the lives of actual people. It also affirmed the morality of loving one's own children, gay or not. That message needs to be heard by families who have rejected gay children.

But learning of Cheney's gay daughter likely had a very different effect on some of Bush's conservative supporters. It suggested that the administration might not be as trustworthy on gay issues as they had thought. After all, Edwards just told them that the Cheney half of the Bush-Cheney ticket has been infiltrated by the enemy.

Did Edwards intend to produce that homophobic but politically useful effect? He predictably denies any double-meaning. Such is the complexity of talk about gay issues in this country that we'll never really know. ▼

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. Some of his past columns can be read at www.indegayforum.com. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.

Oakland LGBTs come out



Ilene Chaiken, executive producer of Showtime's *The L Word*, was on hand at the Out in Oakland event Sunday, October 10 in the Lake Merritt Parkway District. The afternoon event drew a few hundred people from around the city, and featured community groups and musical entertainment. City Council member Danny Wan was also on hand, urging those in attendance to discuss establishing a gay district in the Parkway area.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Here's the bacon

by Jane Warner

Welcome Home Restaurant, 464 Castro, October 8, 8:04 p.m.:

A man staggered into the restaurant, sat down at a table, and told the waitress, "I want meat!" Seeing as he was intoxicated, the waitress tried to ascertain what kind of meat the man wanted. "Just bring me a side of bacon," he angrily replied. The waitress brought him the bacon along with the bill. When he was finished eating, the man got up and stood in front of the cash register with the check in hand.

The waitress waited for him to hand her the money but he just stood there. "You can help someone else," the man finally told her. As the waitress walked away, the drunk reached over the counter and attempted to take the AIDS Emergency Fund donation jar. Unable to steal the jar as it was chained to the counter, the man then pushed keys on the cash register trying to make it open. The cook saw what was happening and grabbed the thief around the neck with a pair of tongs. The cook led the man outside by the tongs and told him not to come back but the drunk followed the cook back inside. The

cook swung the man around, grabbed him in a bear hug, and led him outside again. Upon letting him go, the drunk picked up a parking sign and tried to hit the cook in the head. Police soon arrived but the cook declined to press charges. The suspect, 36, was taken to Mission Station and booked for being under the influence of alcohol in a public place.

Little rascals

18th and Collingwood, October 8, 6:10 p.m.:

A group of young adults were loitering on the corner of Collingwood and 18th, near the Edge bar. The group carried on, singing and dancing to the music in the doorway. A woman stood on the ledge of the window and started singing to the patrons inside. The bartender told her to get down but she angrily told him to "Fuck off." Words were exchanged between the patrons and the group through the open window. A man uninvolved with the exchange exited the bar to have a cigarette. One of the young adults saw him and threatened, "What are you going to do about it, faggot?" Unaware of what was going on, the man told the youth to leave him alone. A pushing match ensued and the woman who was standing on the

ledge of the open window came over and punched the man in the nose. Several patrons exited the bar and a fight broke out. When police arrived, they saw a melee in the middle of Collingwood Street. Officers broke up the confrontation and sorted out what happened, but the victim, who suffered a bloody nose, refused to press charges. Both groups were admonished and told leave the area.

Bash back

Fronting Daddy's bar, 440 Castro, October 8, 9:34 p.m.:

Two women coming out of Marcello's Pizza saw a man sitting on the hood of their car. Informing him they were going to leave, the women asked the man if he wouldn't mind moving. "I'm not getting off no car, you fucking fat dyke," the man yelled. Offended by his comment, the woman told him they would drive off anyway. The man suddenly jumped off the hood and lunged at the women, slugging one of them in her face with his fist. The victim punched her assailant back as the other woman grabbed him around the neck. The man struggled but the women were able to bring him to the ground and hold him down while passersby flagged down a patrol car. The women released the man to officers, who took the 31-year-old suspect to Mission Station and booked him for battery and being under the influence.



Couples married in SF to highlight Palm Springs Pride

by Ed Walsh

Same-sex couples married in San Francisco earlier this year will take center stage at Palm Springs' Pride celebration next month.

Greater Palm Springs Pride has named the more than 4,000 gay couples who tied the knot in February and March as grand marshals for its Pride Parade on Sunday, November 7.

"They stand as a powerful symbol of the enduring determination of our community to achieve equal rights for all Americans regardless of sexual orientation," said Greater Palm Springs Pride President Jack Schloeder.

GPSP is working with Equality California and Marriage Equality California to coordinate the landmark event. Schloeder told the *Bay Area Reporter* that his organization sent invitations to 4,035 couples and that the response has been "positive and heart-warming."

A private wedding reception

for the couples, their families, and friends will be held on the festival grounds at the Palm Springs Stadium on Saturday November 6, from 8 to 10 p.m. Couples participating as grand marshals and attending the wedding reception are being asked to bring their wedding licenses issued by San Francisco County as proof of their marriages. [The San Francisco marriages were ruled invalid by the state Supreme Court in August.]

Organizers estimate that over 60,000 people will attend the festival over its two-day period. The event is highlighted by the parade on Palm Canyon Drive in the heart of historic Palm Springs. The theme for this year's festival is "World Pride: It Starts With You."

The festival will be held at the Palm Springs Stadium and Sunrise Park Campus, located behind the library on Sunrise, between Ramon Road and Barristo.

The parade usually takes just under two hours but organizers expect it will be a little longer be-

cause of the gay couples marching this year. Participants will include Mayor Ron Oden and the Palm Springs City Council. Oden is Palm Springs' first openly gay mayor and also the city's first African American mayor. As mayor, he's also part of the city council, giving gays a 3-2 majority on that body.

Due to the demand for rooms on those dates, couples are asked to call the Pride number (760-416-8711) for assistance. Organizers are also providing for special needs of couples and a special page on their Web site will be for instructions on festivities over the weekend specific to them.

GPSP is a nonprofit public benefit corporation that produces the annual Pride celebration and parade in Palm Springs.

Admission to the festival following the parade is \$10. For information on the festival and parade, contact Jack Schloeder at (760) 416-8711 or PSpPride@dc.rr.com, or visit www.PSPride.org. ▼

Still no arrest in Pendulum case

by Ed Walsh

San Francisco Police told the *Bay Area Reporter* this week that although they have identified a suspect in the Pendulum bar homicide case, they are still waiting to get the green light from the district attorney's office before making an arrest.

San Francisco Police Homicide Inspector Herman Jones told the B.A.R. that while police could

make the arrest without an arrest warrant, it would be "an exercise in futility" to do so if the DA's office decided not to press charges after the arrest was made. Jones requested the warrant last week shortly after the case was officially ruled a homicide.

San Francisco resident Jay Michael Carbone, 52, died at Davies Medical Center on September 25. Police say he was assaulted in the Pendulum bar's back patio two days earlier. Jones said that a

fight between the suspect and Carbone was sparked by the suspect's anger toward Carbone for sunbathing nude on the patio of the popular Castro District bar. Jones said that it would be inappropriate, at this point in the investigation, to go into more details about what police believe occurred between the suspect and Carbone.

The San Francisco District Attorney's office did not respond to the B.A.R.'s requests for comment by press time. ▼



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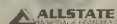
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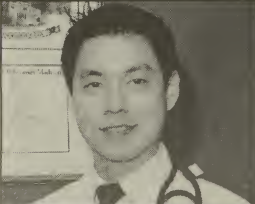
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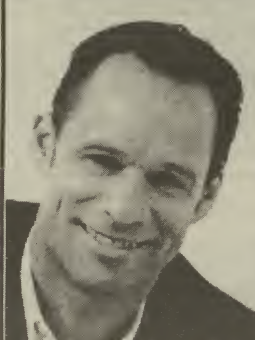

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Candidates work together on RCV

by Kevin Davis

Two savvy District 5 supervisor candidates have joined forces and are taking the next step to further adapting themselves to ranked choice voting.

Former AIDS czar Bill Barnes, and political theorist Brett Wheeler, both openly gay, are spreading the message, both of their similar campaign platforms and how voters can mark their ballot to most powerfully effect change and progress for the LGBT community in the new RCV system.

Although in-depth explanations of RCV are included in the sample ballots and offered in many political mailings and newspapers, voters might still gloss over the instructions to focus on propositions and platforms. With that in mind Barnes and Wheeler are barnstorming their way around the district to enlighten voters of RCV's advantages.

Basically, RCV allows voters to choose up to three candidates for the supervisor races in San Francisco. Also known as instant runoff voting, ballots are continually tabulated by elections officials until one candidate receives more than a majority of the votes, thus avoiding runoff elections in December.

Barnes and Wheeler point out, for example, that unlike the *Bay Area Reporter*, the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, and Green Party slate, the two LGBT Democratic clubs — Harvey Milk and Alice B. Toklas — did not make RCV endorsements, suggesting only one candidate in each district, instead of taking full advantage of the city's new voting system.

Barnes and Wheeler emphasized that choosing only one candidate "exhausts" the voter's ballot prematurely.

"Spend your resources to make clear choices and cut through the clutter," said Wheeler.

If people vote for three viable LGBT candidates who survive the vote transfers during tabulation, it provides "continuity" to make that ballot count for as much as possible, by understanding how to play the new game, the men said.

"It's tough to make distinctions between candidates," said Wheeler. "But, Bill's experience in City Hall and our long term vision of how the city will change, distinguishes us from the rest."

Added Barnes, "We're not out there promising the world. We have credible, sound new ideas, and the focus to see them through. On key issues we have no



District 5 candidates Brett Wheeler and Bill Barnes have joined forces.

disagreement."

Avoiding confusion

Both candidates recognize that some voters may be confused by RCV.

"It's a challenge to educate and show folks that their voice counts. After the voting shenanigans of four years ago, people want their vote to count," said Barnes referring to Florida's hanging chads and other election snafus during the 2000 presidential race.

Wheeler, who owns a home with his partner, Greg, in Cole Valley, explained why he believes club endorsements are becoming less influential among plugged-in citizens in district elections.

"In District 5, unlike maybe District 8, choices are not dictated by slate cards," said Wheeler. "In Cole Valley, they're engaged, interested in the neighborhood."

District 5 is also unique in that among the 22 people running, even the most socially conservative, business-minded candidate with supply-side economic ideas is likely more liberal than many candidates considering themselves progressive in Ingleside, the Richmond, or the Marina.

"In 5 there's not the same polarization on bread and butter issues," said Barnes.

"It's one thing to be polite, and

another to point out differences," said Wheeler of RCV's effect at making campaigns more civilized.

Barnes also recalled that before district elections, the community supported one gay or lesbian candidate's "expensive" campaign. Now, the possibility exists for voters — at least in Districts 5 and 9 — to choose several strong LGBT candidates.

"If you look at this election, we're the only thing in town, in competitive races," said Barnes comparing the District 5 situation with other districts.

In a race without an incumbent running, with votes diffused, or "exhausted" between so many candidates, "a few thousand votes could win a seat," said Wheeler.

Barnes explains that although at the polling place, the Optech Eagle voting machines beep to tell the voter when he's made a mistake such as choosing the same candidate in two different columns, those voting absentee don't get that warning.

"It's always to the voter's benefit to name three," said Wheeler. ▼

Learn more about the campaign platforms of Barnes and Wheeler, as well as more about RCV at their Web site:
www.choosethree.com.

Our Man Friday

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that a group of Latino activists last week solicited DVDs and videos of Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger's** movies for a symbolic mass destruction in December to draw attention to the governor's veto of legislation that would have let illegal immigrants get driver's licenses. Schwarzenegger last month vetoed a bill that would have let up to 2 million immigrants drive legally, saying the bill lacked security safeguards.

One of our community's really good guys, political consultant and activist **Jim Rivaldo**, will be

among those honored by the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club with its Lifetime Achievement Award, during the club's annual fall fundraiser on Wednesday, October 20, 6 to 8 p.m. at Vino Venue, 686 Mission at 3rd Street (\$100; www.AliceBToklas.org or phone 415-707-2010 for info and tix).

The next election for mayor of Los Angeles isn't until March 2005, but my sources from L. A. tell me that City Council member (and former Assembly leader) **Antonio Villaraigosa** is the one to watch if anyone takes out incumbent Mayor **James Hahn**; in less than two months after announcing his candidacy the popular Vil-

laraigosa has reportedly raised nearly a million dollars for his campaign and he's just starting.

Celeb news: Cops in Las Vegas are saying that the formerly unknown gunman who was wanted for shooting up **Siegfried** and **Roy's** Las Vegas digs recently has been identified as former Oakland Raider placekicker **Cole Murdoch Ford**. Vegas police described Ford as a transient, likely living in a budget motel, and say he drove by the famed show couple's place shooting a gun and yelling "We need to get these (expletive) Siegfried and Roy out of our country." No one was injured in the incident.

And how was your week? ▼

Past rivals, gay Democratic groups join forces

by Matthew S. Bajko

As far as anyone can remember, it has been at least a decade since San Francisco's two gay Democratic groups have worked hand-in-hand during an election season. But with Robert Haaland, believed to be the first transgender man to seek public office in the United States, who is running for District 5 supervisor, the often-bitter rivals have found common ground.

Last week the two clubs, Harvey Milk and Alice B. Toklas, mailed a joint "unity" slate card to LGBT absentee voters in the Haight-Ashbury District asking them to vote for Haaland, a union organizer and past president of the Milk Club. Haaland is seeking to replace Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez, a Green Party member, who opted not to seek re-election.

In addition to the supervisor race, the two clubs also have taken similar positions on other gay candidates, such as re-electing Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco) and BART board member Tom Radulovich as well as sending Carole Migden (D) to the state Senate.

"Six weeks ago I would say we had the idea and everyone thought it would be a great thing to do for the community for LGBT unity. Because the LGBT community, when it is united, is so powerful in this city," said Scott Wiener, Alice treasurer. "We have been so divided in so many different races in the past two years. When Alice and Milk come together it makes our community that much more powerful and united."

This political season, the clubs have staked out similar positions on the various state and local ballot measures, are both supporting John Kerry's presidential bid, and urge voters to re-elect both Senator Barbara Boxer and Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi on November 2. But it is Haaland's race that has fostered the most unity between the two groups and brought endorsements from past opponents.

Leno and former Supervisor Harry Britt, who faced off in a bitter primary battle in 2002 for the 13th District Assembly seat, and Supervisor Bevan Dufty and Eileen Hansen, who slugged it out in 2002 for Leno's District 8 supervisor seat, have all given their backing to Haaland.

"It is history in a sense. Most importantly was Robert's running," said Michael Goldstein, Milk Club president, of the two clubs' coalescing on a single candidate this election cycle. "But identity politics aside, because we are in a unique situation in District 5, in the sense 22 candidates are running, we felt that it was very important since the two clubs were so strongly behind Robert that we come together with a piece that would have an effect on the LGBT community in District 5."

Haaland said he feels honored that the clubs decided to put out the unity slate and has been "thrilled at the level of commit-

ment both clubs have shown to electing the first openly transgender candidate in the nation. It is amazing."

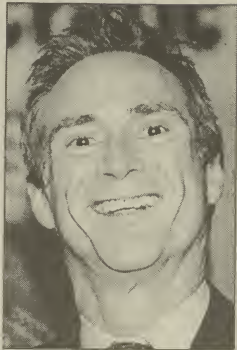
For longtime members of both clubs, it is Haaland's work over the past few years, as both an activist and a former Milk president, to reach out to Alice members as to why he engenders the support he does from both clubs.

"I think it's a result of Robert Haaland's efforts to be a unifier and build a bridge with the Alice Club to emphasize their common interest," said Jim Rivaldo, a founding member of the Milk Club and a member of Alice, who is consulting on Haaland's campaign. "We fight to the death sometimes over some microscopic differences on the political bandwidth, I think the time is right to work together."

Sometimes bitter past

The last time the clubs teamed up was in 1994, during what was called the "Lavender Sweep 2" when both worked to elect openly gay Tom Ammiano and out lesbians Migden and Susan Leal to the Board of Supervisors, as well as out candidates Leslie Katz and Lawrence Wong to the community college board. Since then the clubs have found little to agree upon and often accused each other of playing dirty politics.

In 1995 the two groups faced off in the mayoral race, with Alice supporting Willie Brown and Milk backing Roberta Achtenberg. Then in 1999, Alice went with Mayor Brown for re-election while Milk supported Ammiano's surprise write-in candidacy. In 2002, the two clubs fought two campaigns that strained relations, the



Michael Goldstein

Leno-Britt match-up in the spring primary and the Dufty-Hansen face-off in the December runoff election. They also saw differently in the assessor-recorder's race, with Milk behind Doris Ward and Alice going with Mabel Teng.

This year's unity slate card will arrive in voters' mailboxes right before the election and will be handed out on street corners. Wiener estimated it would cost each club about \$2,250 to produce the cards. He said the slate card is significant and could play a major role in the outcome of the District 5 race.

"I know people who take the Alice and Milk slate cards and put them side by side and who tend to follow the two clubs on the issues on which they agree and candidates they agree on," said Wiener. "With a joint slate card, you don't have to put them side by side: one document shows you what the LGBT community's slate is. I think a lot of people will pay close attention to that."

But with ranked choice voting making a debut with this year's supervisor races, some candidates

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Black and white same-sex households differ, report says

by Bob Roehr

Striking differences between black and white same-sex households have emerged from an analysis of the 2000 census data. Those differences point to a greater need for legal protection for black relationships, particularly the protections that can be found through marriage.

The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute and the National Black Justice Coalition issued the report "Black Same-Sex Households in the United States" on October 6.

The U.S. Census allowed cohabiting same-sex couples to self-identify as "unmarried partners," a practice begun with the 1990 census and continued in 2000. Some 600,000 couples did so in the last census, including some 85,000, or 14 percent, who also were black.

"In many ways black same-sex couples resemble black married opposite sex couples," said policy institute director Sean Cahill. Black same-sex couples are heavily concentrated in the South and in 10 large cities. Black lesbians were almost as likely to be raising children as their heterosexual counterparts, 61 percent to 69 percent; while black male couples reported a lower though still substantial rate of 46 percent of households with children.

However, "Black same-sex couples earn less than black married couples and are less likely to own the home that they live in," Cahill said. Lesbians are four times as likely to have served in the military.

The report noted that the census counts 2,114 black gay and lesbian couples in the San Francisco-Oakland-San Jose area, representing 2.5 percent of all black same-sex couples in the U.S.

Compared with the white same-sex couples who self-identified in the census, blacks "are nearly twice as likely to be raising children; earn about \$20,000 a year less in income; are less likely to own the home they live in; and are more likely to hold public sector jobs that may offer domestic partner health insurance," Cahill said.

As a result, the antigay activities of social conservatives "disproportionately threatens black same-sex couples ... Black gay and lesbian couples have more to gain from the ability to marry and more to lose if marriage and other forms of partner recognition are banned."

"This report demonstrates that gays and lesbians are woven into African American communities wherever we are," said H. Alexander Robinson, strategic director of the NBJC. "It makes clear that the tradition of the tight, strong African American family is alive and well in black same-sex house-

holds. It reveals black gay couples to be parents at much higher rates than anyone expected."

"It breaks the silence and amplifies the voices of black gay Americans," Robinson added. "In doing so it makes clear how antigay rhetoric, antigay policies, and antigay legislation such as the military's 'Don't Ask, Don't Tell' and the Federal Marriage Amendment and its counterparts in the states will disproportionately harm black gay families."

"This underscores the fact that we are part of the [civil rights and gay rights] movement," said Mandy Carter, executive director of Southerners on New Ground. "It helps challenge the unrelenting attack by the predominately white radical right trying to do outreach to conservative black churches to bring that wedge down between our black community and our gay community."

"We are black and we are gay. Trying to compartmentalize that is not very healthy," Carter said. "We have to be out and organized in our communities."

"Homophobia, racism, and sexism are really three heads of the same monster," said the Reverend Ken Samuel, pastor of the Victory Church in Stone Mountain, Georgia. "We must do battle against that evil with all of the consciousness and spirit of good will that we can muster."

Samuel said the social pres-

ures of homophobia "works havoc with the health of the black community" by encouraging deceit and "the down low, due to fear of being ridiculed, isolated, and ostracized in religious communities." And this feeds the spread of HIV/AIDS, he noted.

"Many black same gender loving persons have been coerced into marriage in order to prove themselves as worthy members of the community and the church," Samuel said. Often those marriages result in children, who stay with the parent when the adult comes to terms with their sexual orientation.

Carter and Robinson said that part of the reason why there are more likely to be children within black same-sex households is a decreased willingness to put children up for adoption and a greater prevalence of extended families within the black community. Black same-sex couples "often are raising siblings, nieces or nephews," Robinson said.

He was surprised by the recent House vote on the FMA (renamed the Marriage Protection Amendment) by some members of the Congressional Black Caucus. He said it was the result of "a very, very well orchestrated plan to put



H. Alexander Robinson

in calls, by religious conservatives, to put pressure on them," from their constituents.

"Because social conservatives have been so clever at conflating the issues of religious sacraments and civil marriage, we have had to redouble our efforts to educate" members of the black community, said Robinson.

Samuel added, "When you lay the case out for black caucus members here in Georgia [in dealing with the state marriage amendment] they were clearly able to see that this amendment is a bad precedent for all of us who have faced systemic discrimination in society." ▼

The study is available online at: www.thetaskforce.org/resilibrar/y/list.cfm?pubTypeID=2

LCR files suit against DADT

by Bob Roehr

Log Cabin Republicans is taking on the military's antigay policy known as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" in a lawsuit filed Tuesday, October 12 in Los Angeles. It is known as *Log Cabin Republicans v. USA* and it claims that the policy is unconstitutional in light of the Supreme Court's *Lawrence* decision last year striking down state sodomy laws.

"A lawsuit should not be necessary when our military has lost thousands of needed military personnel under this policy," said Patrick Guerriero, executive director of LCR. "However, under these circumstances, when we are a nation at war fighting a global war on terrorism, we can no longer sit by and wait for our elected officials to find the political courage to do the right thing."

Earlier legal challenges to gays serving openly in the military were lost because of the court's traditional deference to the military on internal matters. That was backed up by the Supreme Court's 1987 decision in *Bowers v. Hardwick* that allowed antigay state sodomy laws to stand.

But the *Lawrence* decision categorically rebuked that argument saying, "Bowers was not correct when it was decided, and it is not correct today. It ought not to remain binding precedent. *Bowers v. Hardwick* should be and now is overruled." And that completely changed the dynamics of future legal challenges to DADT.

Marty Meekins, in the Los Angeles office of the prestigious law firm of White & Case, is one of the

lead attorneys on the lawsuit. In a telephone interview he said the firm filed an amicus brief on the *Lawrence* case for LCR and has been working with them on this case since April.

"Log Cabin is bringing it on behalf of its members" who are serving in the armed forces, Meekins said. "They want to continue serving the United States and don't want to do anything to jeopardize our national security."

"It is interesting endeavor to look at what has failed before and try to see a different constellation of constitutional law that wins, and I think we've done it," Meekins added.

He noted that the firm won the last successful lawsuit on gays in the military, which involved Keith Meinhold. Congress, however, rendered that victory moot with adoption of DADT in 1993. The case involving Meinhold also came in the Ninth Circuit Court that includes California, one of the more favorable jurisdictions to launch such a legal appeal.

LCR's lawsuit argues that since DADT was enacted, "nearly 10,000 trained members of the United States armed forces have been discharged ... countless other service members have chosen to leave military service rather than be subjected to investigation and discharge. In addition, countless other potential members who otherwise would have joined the United States armed forces did not and do not join because of the policy."

The suit charges that DADT "is merely a pretext for animus toward gay and lesbian members of

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COMMUNITY NEWS

GGBA looks 'Beyond the Dream'

by Tyson Gillfillan

The Golden Gate Business Association, San Francisco's chamber of commerce for gay and lesbian business owners, will celebrate 30 years of accomplishments at its gala anniversary event next week, "Beyond the Dream."

The evening pays homage to three decades of providing LGBT businesses with marketing, networking, and mentoring opportunities, as well as political advocacy with members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, the mayor's office, and the business community at large.

Featuring keynote speaker, author Armistead Maupin and guest auctioneer Jan Wahl from KRON-TV, the event celebrates GGBA's longevity and community accomplishments, and hopes to raise over \$10,000 to help support future initiatives to meet the changing needs of the LGBT business community.

GGBA President Jim Cherry said that despite booming membership in the 1970s and 1980s, in recent years LGBT chambers of commerce have seen a sharp decline. The East Bay Business and Professional Alliance, a group similar to the GGBA, disbanded in 2003 citing a lack of membership involvement. Cherry said GGBA has had to become much more responsive to economic and management changes to survive.

"In the last four years we have created new programs and benefits that reflect and support how our business community is evolving today," he said.

Recent programs, such as the tourism advisory program to promote San Francisco as an LGBT tourist destination, and the formation of an advocacy and policy committee to make ballot measure endorsements, have required coordination with diverse groups in the city, such as the San Francisco Convention and Visitor's Bureau, local business associations, elected officials, and political organizations. Cherry believes that these relationships not only strengthen the voice of the GGBA within the city, but also enhance the membership value within the organization.

The National Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce agrees, recently recognizing GGBA with an Outstanding Chamber Achievement Award at its national conference.

At Beyond the Dream, GGBA will celebrate these milestones as well as future accomplishments, such as the group's work to help develop a nationwide diversity certification program, facilitating relationships between gay-owned businesses and large corporations. Cherry said they have been working with the national gay chamber to unveil this program in January, which will include a Web-based "supplier-buyer" tool to make it easier for large companies to subcontract work to LGBT businesses.

Entertainment at the event will include aerial acrobatics by Zeina from Cirque du Soleil, an open bar cocktail reception, award presentations celebrating

outstanding advocacy and contributions by area businesses and individuals, as well as a silent and live auction. Featured auction items include a trip for two to the French Riviera, private wine tours, original artwork, and a catered dinner for eight "under the stars" at the Chabot Space and Science Center.

"I'm very proud to have been president during such a momentous year, and am proud of all we've done and continue to do for the gay and lesbian business community," said Cherry.

Beyond the Dream will take place Thursday, October 21, at 6 p.m., at the Regency Center, 1290 Sutter Street, in San Francisco. Tickets are \$140 or \$190, which includes a 5 p.m. VIP reception, and are available at www.ggba.org or by calling (415) 865-5545. ▼



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District 9

◀ page 1

livid. I would have said 'Get off this trolley, I no longer want you part of my campaign.' I wouldn't allow or tolerate anyone saying antigay or homophobic remarks." Bustos, however, was unmoved.

"For them to go out like that, to make gross remarks - we've been very respectful of them and friendly toward their campaign," said Bustos. "I don't know what's wrong with them. They're angry."

Both candidates concluded that the allegation and denial were diversions from their campaign platforms.

"Unfortunately, perhaps, candidates make allegations out of desperation," said Saucedo. "He has no way to challenge my candidacy based on my history so it's come to this and it's sad."

"I run a clean campaign. At candidate forums and other activities, we are always very respectful and cordial. We embrace each other every time we see each other," she added.

"I think that candidates understand that someone's number one choice is also someone's number two choice," Saucedo said of ranked choice voting's courtesy effect. "We're in a new era. My philosophy is electoral campaigns should be civil, run on principles. There's no reason to name call, bad mouth, or punch below the belt. It's uncalled for."

But, according to Bustos, his opponent's supporters might not behave so politely and RCV is not as diplomatically powerful as some say.

People are still doing their own thing, he said. "In this case how do you distinguish yourself? For us there's really only three of us."

Bustos was referring to himself, Saucedo, and incumbent Supervisor Tom Ammiano as the leading candidates in the race.

"One thing we've learned about her and her people, they've ripped down our signs all along 24th, Cortland and San Bruno," said Bustos. "They go into a store, and just rip down signs and put up their own. A lot of storeowners are afraid. They wait until after they've finished doing it."

"If people feel like they have to resort to intimidating Miguel, if



Dist. 9 candidate Renee Saucedo

they don't want to debate the issues," they resort to such tactics, proffered Bustos's campaign manager, Luke Klipp. "It took us all by surprise. It's unnerving because you don't expect something like this to happen. I wouldn't say I believe she specifically supports their behavior, per se. It's about what they feel empowered to say, if the leadership empowers people to speak like that. But, she allows an atmosphere where people feel

"We're in a new era. My philosophy is electoral campaigns should be civil, run on principles. There's no reason to name call, bad mouth, or punch below the belt. It's uncalled for."

they can talk that way."

Bustos said he plans to file complaints with the Ethics and Human Rights commissions and possibly a police report.

"It makes sense to have as much of a paper trail as possible," said Klipp. "We needed to file a complaint because, if nothing else, it gives us closure."

But, staff members from each department said that without an in-depth investigation, this kind of alleged verbal harassment probably does not fall under their jurisdiction.

"Because of the First Amendment, it's not against the law to call someone antigay names," said Human Rights Commission staff member Larry Brinken. "Because of our U.S. Constitution, that's constitutional. It could become a violation if it incites a hate crime. It certainly is extremely troubling to hear this accusation."

"Basically, our ordinance applies to housing, employment, and public accommodations," said Brinken, who added that a campaign headquarters is "not an agency open to the public, and not really a business. It's really a group of individuals."

"Unless I hear the facts of the case, it doesn't sound like a violation of the law," said Brinken. "But, if there are other issues I'm not aware of, we would certainly look at it."

"There are no laws per se that we have jurisdiction over that," said Ethics Commission legal analyst Richard Mo. "We have a restricted scope of what is verbal harassment. In general we have no jurisdiction over intimidation violations."

Bustos said the alleged incident shows divisiveness has entered the campaign.

"I'm not going to do that 'poor me' routine," said Bustos. "But, it perpetuates the whole divisiveness of local politics."

Differing stories

Saucedo's campaign staff, however, disputes Bustos's accusation.

"It never happened," said Saucedo's campaign manager, Karl Kramer, who sat in the front of the trolley. "We didn't slow down on 24th. I was one of the few that realized it was his campaign office. Most of the people weren't aware. We have nothing against Miguel."

Added Saucedo, "We've had very cordial relations. Look, we're out there talking about the issues, nothing is personal. It doesn't coincide with the values and principles of what this campaign is all about. I always stuck to the issues. I'm not into name-calling. I don't believe in that."

"I specifically remember going by there and people saying 'Yeah, Renee,' nothing else," said passenger Antonio Arenas, a youth advocate. "Nobody attacked Bustos on being gay. I don't remember ever stopping. The trolley just zoomed by his place. I'm not sure he could even hear us. He was way in the back."

"I'm just completely shocked," said driver Amado Tostado, with the Coach USA Company since 1995. "I remember eight or 10 young people, a young crowd, we're talking 17 or 18, people hanging off the front and back. I do remember people who were

yelling. The guys in back were rowdy and excited but there was no cursing. We want to be accountable. I have no idea how they would know about Bustos. That might sound naive. If something like that was said, I will once again say it would happen by an adult."

"People saw and heard what she was doing," said Bustos. "Let me tell you, this is typical Renee. She's always like that. Your taking my signs down, and you're saying, 'my people wouldn't do it'?"

A neighbor said people on the trolley were screaming.

"It would be hard not to notice," said a next-door neighbor with a street-facing window, who requested anonymity. "They were screaming stuff. They were stopped for a while. I think it was the teenagers. They were screaming bad words on our street."

"They came by about three times," said Bustos campaign volunteer Erick Arguello, a four-year Mission resident and president of the Lower 24th Street Neighborhood Association who works at AGUILAS, the nonprofit LGBT Latino support service agency. "The first time they sped by. The second time we waved. They wanted to be seen, is my assumption. They came by a third time, pulled up next to the stop sign and said, 'Fuck you faggot.'"

"I'm gay so I'm offended by it," added Arguello. "The vulgarity of it, homophobic remarks. I don't know what their motivation was. I saw young adults and adults. They were shouting so loud, they were yelling it out."

The candidates, however, continue to disagree on what happened.

"Homophobic remarks in San Francisco in this day and age, especially as part of a campaign about inclusion and respect for diversity?" Bustos chastised.

"I think that these accusations are unfounded and a tactic to smear my name and reputation and I don't appreciate it," said Saucedo. ▼

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Bathhouses

◀ page 1

health officials. When San Francisco's last bathhouse closed down in the early 1990s, they contend gay men did not lose merely an easy route to sexual gratification, but an environment that fostered camaraderie and intimacy between men.

While the Internet has turned into a cyberspace bathhouse in certain respects, those who used to frequent the baths say it is a poor cousin to what was available in the 1960s and 1970s.

"I used to go to the baths; I went to school in Northern California and then went into the Army for a few years. I came back in 1966 and the big bathhouse was Dave's 100 on Broadway in North Beach," recalled Reid Condit, a longtime proponent for lifting the city's restrictions on bathhouse spaces. "Then Ritch Street opened and there has never been a bathhouse in San Francisco that could rival Ritch Street. It had a cafe, a wonderful Jacuzzi, and a rooftop patio."

What people forget about bathhouses, argues Condit, is they were more than just sexual fun houses but gay social centers.

"The sex clubs of today just don't compare to the kind of facilities that Ritch Street provided for socializing as well as for sex. I used to go to Dave's every election where I spent election night watching the results come in," remembered Condit, a member of Community United for Sexual Privacy, a group formed in 2000 that tried to lift the city's ban on private spaces in bathhouses.

Gay men today, said Condit, "I think they miss a place for social-

ization in an atmosphere where sex is possible but not obligatory."

Richard Carrazza, who moved to the city in 1975, also would like to see the bathhouses return. Younger gay men in the city who have grown up meeting their sexual partners online have missed out, he believes, by not having access to bathhouses. In certain ways, Carrazza argues, the closure of the baths has only helped to spread HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, not stop them.

"The fact that we do not have bathhouses doesn't stop us from having sex; it just makes it more difficult to have healthy low-risk sex. Without private space it is harder for me to control my physical environment, to speak openly or to just rest with a guy," said Carrazza. "Privacy provides an environment for more intimate and healthy social and sexual connections. Bathhouses incorporate sexual and social activities: gym, TV, pool, sauna, lounge, food, etc., as well as private spaces for sex."

While he does cruise the Internet, Carrazza said he hates using it as a way to meet men.

"It is not personal. It is about your photos and your profile, not you, not your energy or your spirit," he said. "It's made it even more inhuman, more disconnected. I think when we have taken away private spaces we have diminished our opportunities to create an intimate space, create environments where you see the person not just as a sexual physical object but as a human being. In a bathhouse we can laugh with a person one moment, hug, fuck, talk, and start over again. In a public space those opportunities are significantly diminished."



The Ritch Street Baths were among the most popular in San Francisco.

Research supports claims

Research studying the effect of the city's ban also supports these men's claims that the ban had very little impact. Instead of showing any benefit from the bathhouse ban, the research has instead pointed to more distressing developments among gay men's sexual behaviors.

"The evidence that is available, it suggests it isn't likely to have made a significant impact," said Bill Woods, a researcher at the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies at the University of California, San Francisco who edited the 2003 book *Gay Bathhouses and Public Health Policy*. "Insofar as we see the opposite policy in New York [which allows bathhouses only to have private spaces] with a

similar level of risk behavior, it doesn't give us a lot of confidence that the specific policy is making a difference."

In other words, Woods said the research has found that whether there are private spaces or not, it doesn't make a difference in how men behave. What is making more of a difference is the Internet, which studies show has led to more risky sex among gay men.

"One of my concerns is in the data we look at of guys who go to bathhouses or sex clubs, it is looking like they are more likely to have riskier sex at home than in any public setting," said Woods. "So what the Internet probably does is increase the likelihood guys are bringing guys home. That is for a lot of guys a more dangerous place because riskier sex is more likely to happen at home. It is not like private rooms in a bathhouse is making a difference in the behavior."

The advent of cruising online makes the whole argument over private places in bathhouses moot, argues Jeff Sheehy, a longtime AIDS activist who is Mayor Gavin Newsom's adviser on HIV and AIDS policy.

"Bathhouse sex - at this point - I don't think makes much difference because people have migrated over to the Internet," said Sheehy. "Reopening the bathhouses could have been an effective strategy to increase communication between health officials, gay men, and providers."

Current Health Director Dr. Mitch Katz, a gay man himself, has stood by the city's bathhouse regulations and has said he sees no reason to change them. While Sheehy supports Katz's decision to enforce the ban, he contends that by refusing to lift it an opportunity to talk and reach gay men about their sexual choices was lost.

"I don't think the data is clear that shutting the bathhouses represents the best way to do HIV prevention. They are venues where HIV testing and counseling and prevention messages can be delivered. But also, having noted that, I wonder if that window has been lost with the ubiquity of the Internet and the fact people are hooking up over the Internet," said Sheehy. "I think it would have been interesting to explore designing prevention interventions in the framework of reopening the bathhouses. It would have given you a unique opportunity to address issues such as the spike in syphilis infections and other STDs, consequences of infections and what antiretroviral therapy really means."

The debate over private spaces has obscured more important issues, argues Sheehy, which may be

secondary but what are probably the real causes of the spike in HIV infections such as substance abuse - specifically speed use - and untreated depression in gay men.

He imagines that the bathhouses could be a place to promote serosorting, where positive men and negative men only have sex with someone of the same HIV status. It is a phenomenon that the Internet has easily fostered.

"We could have HIV-positive nights in bathhouses where we encourage folks to hook up with people of the same serostatus. We could have modeled new types and ways of talking about HIV," said Sheehy. "We could have modeled and talked to people about talking to each other about their status and sexual preferences. How else are you going to have an opportunity to talk to a gay man who is sexually active about risk before having sex?"

If the city were to lift the ban on private spaces, Sheehy said it could at the same time set conditions so that bathhouses are required to hire people who are knowledgeable about HIV as well as provide training and information to patrons so they can talk to other gay men about sexual risk practices and substance abuse.

"We had an opportunity to talk to people at risk and I think we missed it," said Sheehy, who added he sees no reason to now push the issue in his role as AIDS czar. "If I thought it would make a big difference tomorrow it might be different. I do suspect the moment has passed. You could have opened a couple of bathhouses and had instant interest in what is going on and gotten a lot of people who are sexually active to show up. It might have been as much as an effective campaign as 'HIV stops with me' for positive folks and 'HIV is no picnic' was for negative people."

Even Dr. Mervyn Silverman, San Francisco's health director who in 1984 issued the closure order to 14 businesses with private spaces for gay men, said he would not push for a blanket policy today over bathhouses.

"My feeling today is that the level of knowledge among most gay men in major cities, certainly in San Francisco where they know more about AIDS than most physicians, is different from back then," said Silverman. "You can't make a blanket statement. You have to look at each one separately. You can't turn a blind eye either and ignore this is taking place. I think it depends on what is going on inside them. In places where no unsafe sex is taking place, I don't have a problem. I have a problem with anything that facilitates the spread."

Though Silverman said he does believe merely lifting San Francisco's ban would send the wrong message. Woods said he doubts the city, after 20 years of saying the policy is important to do, would now rescind it. Also, while research studies have not proven it to be effective, he said there is no study to back up lifting the ban either.

"What I could imagine happening is eventually someone pushed the envelope and they put up doors and locks," he said.

Condit also believes the only chance to see a return of the bathhouses of yore is for an owner with lots of financial backing to come along and challenge the city's rules.

"My fantasy is someone will acquire the Hibernia Bank on Market Street and turn it into a bathhouse," he said. "It would make a fabulous bathhouse. Instead of 'bank' it would say Hibernia Bath." ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Sundance 'Stompede' coming to town

by Louis Anthes

In 1997, Ingu Yun combined two of his passions – country-western dancing and philanthropy – to create San Francisco's Hoedown '97, which two years later became the Sundance Association for Country Western Dancing and caters to the LGBT community.

The Sundance Association, run by several dedicated volunteers, now operates the Sundance Saloon in Bernal Heights, near the intersection of highways 280 and 101. Every Sunday evening, men and women from across the Bay Area show up to two-step and line-dance the night away.

Next weekend, October 22 through 24 is the association's main annual event, the "Sundance Stompede 2004." Events take place at the Ramada Plaza Hotel on Market Street, the Galleria Design Center on Henry Adams Street, and the Sundance Saloon.

The event offers everyone from beginners to experts the chance to take part in some of the best and most exciting performances and workshops with dancers and instructors from around the world. It also exhibits the work of dance troupes. Among the exhibitions are groups like the LA Wranglers, who blend line-dance choreography with country, Latin, and hip-hop styles. Others include the Manhattan Prairie Dogs, the Swing City Dance Company, the San Francisco Saddletamps, and the award-winning Barbary Coast Cloggers.

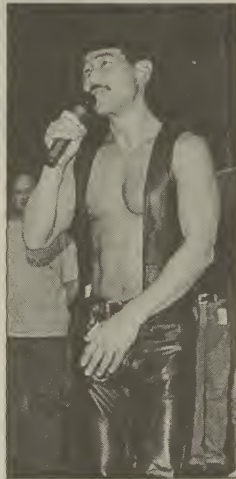
The difference between country-western dancing and the kind

you find at circuit parties is that, for the most part, country-western is couples dancing.

"It's very social, friendly, and you have to ask people to dance," Yun told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "At a circuit party, you dance by yourself or with a group of friends."

Yun feels that country-western dancing is some of the most sensual dancing that is out there today. He points to the "Shadow Dance," where one partner holds the other "right up against him with his crotch against his butt, two-steppin' in tandem around the dance floor, grinding his hips." Yun sees an obvious analogy between this dance and the relationship between the "top and bottom" thing, which is why he also sees a connection between the leather community and country-western dancing.

"When it's in sync, clicking, there's nothing like that feeling. You can dance with someone for three songs and then someone else for three other songs – there's no commitment – then you can come



Hoedown organizer Ingu Yun

to home sweet home," he said.

On the other end of the spectrum is line-dancing, which fo-

cuses on groups. A line-dance is a sequence of steps scripted by an accomplished dance instructor and passed to instructors in other cities and towns. On a recent night at the Sundance Saloon, for example, Yun taught a group of about 30 people the "Backstreet Attitude," originally choreographed for Backstreet Boys music by Jamie Marshall of Hendersonville, Tennessee, who combined classic jazz-box and grapevine moves with hip-grinding and body rolls. The overall impression is that line-dancing has something more in common with musicals and music videos than the typical dance club scene.

For many newcomers, two-stepping and line-dancing can often seem intimidating, since it is choreographed. But Yun insists that the Sundance Saloon – and the upcoming Stompede – offer a very comfortable, no-attitude environment.

"People even bring parents," he noted. And because there are frequent opportunities to learn how to two-step, swing, line-dance,

waltz, or clog for every level of dancer, newcomers soon become regulars.

Yun hopes that Stompede 2004 will bring out about 300 people. Next Friday's welcome dance costs \$12 for all ages. Admission to Saturday's Hoedown 2004 is \$40 for dancers over 21 (ID required). Finally, Sunday's Stompede Ball, which will have among other events a "Sleazy Shadow Dance" contest, will cost \$8 for dancers over 21 (ID required).

Last year's Stompede raised \$10,000 for charity. This year, the Stompede hopes to raise a similar amount for the AIDS Emergency Fund and the Breast Cancer Emergency Fund. For tickets and more information, visit www.stompede.com or call (415) 820-1403. For those interested in checking out the Sundance Saloon at any other time of the year, two-stepping and line-dancing takes place every Sunday between 6 and 11 p.m.; dance instruction is held between 6 and 7:30 p.m. The saloon is located at 550 Barneveld, near Bayshore and Industrial. ▼

DADT

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the United States armed forces."

The three grounds are violation of the due process clause of the Fifth Amendment, which is directly tied to the *Lawrence* decision, and a violation of free speech and expression as guaranteed under the First Amendment.

The final charge is violation of equal protection under the Fifth Amendment, "by intentionally creating an impermissible distinction between the status, speech, and conduct of heterosexual members of the military, on the one hand, and the status, speech, and conduct of homosexual members of the military, on the other hand, and by intentionally subjecting gay and lesbian members of the United States armed forces to different and punitive treatment."

The lawsuit seeks both a preliminary and a permanent injunction against enforcement of DADT.

The Servicemembers Legal Defense Network has been the lead organization providing legal assistance to members of the military affected by the policy. Those efforts have been largely administrative and have not included any constitutional challenges to DADT.

Steve Ralls, spokesman for SLDN, said Tuesday that the Los Angeles lawsuit "was a surprise that we learned of only this morning, we were not anticipating it." He said their attorneys are reviewing the brief, and he restated SLDN's commitment to file its own lawsuit by the end of the year. ▼

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Gay and AIDS advocates focus on Oklahoma Senate race

by Bob Roeher

Gay and AIDS advocates are closely watching the U.S. Senate race in Oklahoma. Tom Coburn, a former congressman, is trying to return to Washington and is locked in a tight race with Democrat Brad Carson, who is also fairly conservative.

Some are even giving money to Carson, even though they acknowledge that he is not the type of candidate they typically support.

Coburn was part of the wave of social conservatives first elected to the House in 1994. He pledged to serve only three terms and retired in 2000. During those six years he played a leading role on AIDS issues. The fact that he is a pediatrician and had treated a few people with AIDS added to his credibility. President Bush later appointed him as co-chair of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS, where he served until resigning earlier this year to campaign for the Senate.

Most people credit Coburn with playing a leading and constructive role in the last reauthorization of the Ryan White CARE Act, though initially he had pressed for significant changes in the distribution formula.

However, Coburn also was a leading voice for abstinence only prevention education, a vociferous critic of the effectiveness of condoms, and pressed for what many considered to be harassing investigations of AIDS services organizations that received federal



Tom Coburn

funds.

His principle staff member on these matters, Roland Foster, continues to work in the House where he has been a leading critic of AIDS services organizations. Foster likely would rejoin Coburn's staff should he be elected to the Senate.

Coburn is very conservative, even by Oklahoma standards. The Republican establishment lined up behind Kirk Humphries, former mayor of Oklahoma City. But Coburn prevailed in a three-way primary to become the party's nominee for the seat of retiring GOP Senator Don Nickles. Recently, it has been reported that years ago Coburn performed sterilizations on women without their written consent. One of the women has gone public with her allegations.

Coburn endorsed independent ideologue Alan Keyes, now running for the Senate in Illinois, over George W. Bush in 2000.

Bill Arnold, with the ADAP Working Group, gives credit to Coburn for leadership on full funding for ADAP, but "on the larger issues of reauthorization of Ryan White, what Dr. Coburn's positions might be are not clear at this time." And how those play out may depend upon who is in the White House and which party controls each of the houses of Congress, AIDS advocates said.

"The bottom line is that if he is elected to the Senate, we know that Tom Coburn will devote an incredible amount of attention to AIDS programs, and a lot of that attention is not going to be positive," said Terje Anderson, executive director of the National Association of People With AIDS.

"It is going to be focused on bringing extraneous social issues into legislating care and treatment. It is going to be about mandatory testing, criminalization of people living with HIV/AIDS, attacking the AIDS services that exist in this country, putting warning language on condoms and on education about their lack of effectiveness."

That is why Anderson and other AIDS advocates have been contributing as individuals to the campaign of Coburn's opponent, Carson. Anderson readily acknowledges that Carson is more conservative on most issues than the candidates that he usually supports, but he fears the role that Coburn might play in the Senate. ▼

Steve Fogle

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Reilly worked closely with Fogle on a number of issues impacting the Russian River area, including its hottest political issue: the water flow on the Russian River. Fogle spearheaded the "No Low Flow" campaign. Some environmentalists insist that a lower flow on the river is necessary to protect juvenile fish. But Fogle passionately argued that a lower flow on the river would kill more fish than it would save because it would increase pollution levels.

Preaseau and other chamber members met in a special session on Sunday, October 10. Preaseau told the B.A.R. that she expected that the county could conclude its investigation as early as the middle of this week and that the chamber decided to conduct its own audit after that.

Laramore said that the chamber's annual budget is \$231,772 and it gets about \$90,000 a year from the county.

The chamber has employed Fogle since June 2003. Before that, he owned his own professional recruiting company in San Francisco. Fogle told the B.A.R. in March that he was very happy with his newfound way of life in Guerneville. He was paid a salary of \$35,000 at the time of his death, according to Laramore.

Bob Young, a well-known Guerneville Realtor and the owner

of the Russian River Eagle and the Coffee Bazaar, echoed others who knew Fogle. He told the B.A.R. that he had no inkling that Fogle may have been troubled by anything. He attended a meeting with Fogle a week before his office was searched.

Young said that Fogle was in a great mood. He fondly recalled looking at Fogle and rolling his eyes in unison with him because the meeting was boring.

Those who knew Fogle said they would have gladly helped him if they had any idea he was struggling with financial or personal issues.

sonal issues.

Like others who worked closely with him, Young remembered Fogle for being hard working and having a knack for bringing people together to reach consensus. Young said that Fogle's hard work was particularly evident during the chamber's award ceremony over the summer. Just about all the speakers went out of their way to praise his dedication and hard work, Young said.

A memorial service is scheduled for Monday, October 18, at 4 p.m. at Fife's Guest Ranch in Guerneville. ▼

Gay Demo groups

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have criticized the gay Democratic clubs for picking only one candidate to support. With voters asked to select their top three candidates, other out candidates such as Bill Barnes call the clubs' move unsavvy and a missed chance to help other LGBT candidates win should Haaland lose.

Goldstein however disagrees, saying the clubs hope to see Haaland win outright and think the joint slate card could help him be the winner in the race.

"I don't think it's a situation of the clubs not being savvy. I find that rather problematic. It just shows the real strong support behind Robert," he said. "We actually would like to see Robert receive

as many first votes as possible. For those individuals looking at other candidates as a number one choice, hopefully this will give them a strong number two choice." ▼

Correction

In last week's story "TG candidate tops campaign cash list; Bustos scores with 49ers," the article misstated the amount of money Robert Haaland has raised in donations. Due to a discrepancy in the campaign's ethics commission filing, the \$46,219 total included public financing Haaland has received. As of this week, Haaland's campaign has raised more than \$37,000 in direct donations from contributors.

OBITUARIES

Michael Edward Dawson



At the stroke of midnight on October 8, 2004 at San Francisco General Hospital, ten days after reaching his 46th birthday, Michael Edward Dawson passed away peacefully, surrounded by family, friends and the music he loved.

He was born in 1958 in Los Angeles to Adminal and Glendora Dawson. Among his many passions Michael counted both roller-skating and tennis, fantasy books and politics. He loved green toy frogs and his purple Mohawk. The quintessential backseat driver, Michael excelled equally at making friends and pissing people off. He enjoyed great sex and good pot. He was a true free spirit but a hell raiser who never hesitated to speak out against injustice.

Michael possessed an encyclopedic knowledge of a broad spectrum of music.

Under the pseudonym of Black Fag, he deejayed many soirees and gave away thousands of compilation CDs. Listening to his own CD mixes as he slipped in and out of consciousness, among Michael's final words were that he was absorbing God through the beat of the music.

Michael is survived by his sisters and brother, nieces and nephews, as well as other family and friends.

Donations may be made in his name to ACT UP San Francisco.

William "Billy" Jared Edwards

May 19, 1949 — October 14, 2003

All his life, in one way or another, Billy stood out. When he was born in Cleveland, Ohio he didn't arrive alone. He brought his twin, James. When we met in 1974, his marriage was ending



because he was a homosexual (a word he preferred over gay). When his son Jared died in a car accident at 17, Billy chose to honor him by changing his middle name to Jared. In his wheelchair, while in the

Castro, he'd say, "Let's wheelie." So I'd push him tilted way back for a smoother ride.

Billy grew up in Whittier, California, and received his BA in psychology and art from Cal State Los Angeles. In his career, as a hairstylist, in Beverly Hills and Long Beach, people were first drawn into his orbit by his startling blue eyes and dazzling smile. Then, they would stay for his intelligence and wit that was one step beyond the Far Side. People wanted to be around Billy because he didn't filter or calculate anything. He was authentic, which inspired us around him to be at our best.

He loved to talk about his year in New York, his friend Ilona, his dentist Pauline, his work with Head Start, his son Jared, and "us," Rick and Billy, as "best friends, then lovers."

On October 14, 2003 at 2 a.m. he smiled at his caregivers at Laguna Honda, kissed his wedding band with our names engraved and with his phone tucked along side, so he could call me, settled back to sleep. Within the hour his heart quietly stopped.

Some people say the first six years of life are the most important. For Billy it was the last six years. He received what he had always given: unconditional love. Sometimes I would look at him and say, "You know what I'm doing?" and he'd say, "You're adoring me." I'd laugh. He'd smile. We adored each other. That's how it will always be.

William "Will" Reedy

April 22, 1965 — September 30, 2004



Will, born April 22, 1965 in Anaheim, California, passed away Thursday, September 30, 2004 after a courageous eight-month battle with cancer. Will was a resident of Amador County for seven years and his

most recently in Pine Grove with his partner Larry in a home purchased last year.

Will worked for Safeway for four years where he made many friends and impacted everyone he came in contact with. He also helped his folks at the "You Name It" store in Jackson, California, where he fine-tuned his knowledge of collecting arts and antiques. He was also an avid lover of nature, music and animals (especially his adopted dog Hank, and cat Bianca).

He spent many years in the restaurant business in San Francisco and Los Angeles, as well as creating window displays for the Gap stores in the Bay Area.

Art and music were Will's life's blood. You would always hear music playing when talking with Will and he would be the first to share a new-found song.

What a chef too! It was always a treat to have a top-notch meal prepared by Will. Needless to say, his impact on his family and friends was immeasurable. He was an old soul, a renaissance man with many gifts to share with those he loved.

Will is survived by his partner Larry, his folks Bill and Mo, mother Diane, brother Greg and David, sister Patrice, sister-in-law Jacque, nephews Cameron, Kyle, Michel, and Aaron, nieces Kaila, Holly, Nicole, and Laura, and many very special friends.

Thanks for the memories Will. We all love you!

A Celebration of Life will be held at the Mace meadow Golf and Country Club in Pioneer, California on Saturday, October 9, 2004 at 12 noon. Flowers or live plants may be sent to Mace meadow or a contribution to A-Pal in Jackson in Will's name will be appreciated.

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization — and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Historical society co-founder Willie Walker dies

by Liz Hightleyman

Willie Walker, a founding member of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Historical Society, died Wednesday, September 29, following a long struggle with cancer and hepatitis C. He was 55.

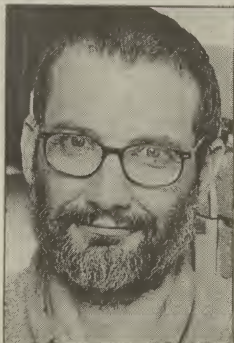
Mr. Walker died at the Hospice of Spokane in Washington state, attended by members of his family.

Mr. Walker was born in Fort Worth, Texas, and lived in several states. He spent a number of years working odd jobs, including a stint in the forestry service, before returning to school in the 1970s to become a nurse. He moved to San Francisco in 1981. He served as a member of the Pride Parade board and worked on the AIDS ward at San Francisco General Hospital.

In the early 1980s, Mr. Walker joined what was then known as the San Francisco History Project, which became the San Francisco Gay and Lesbian Historical Society in 1985 (and later the GLBTHS). For several years, the organization's archives were located in his home. Mr. Walker turned his passion for history into a profession, serving as the first GLBTHS archivist and eventually earning a master's degree in library sciences.

"If queer people do not preserve our own history," Mr. Walker once wrote, "most of it will simply disappear."

"I remember meetings in his old apartment when it was already



Willie Walker

filled with queer material, including boxes and boxes of gay periodicals," said Gayle Rubin, who was also a member of the original History Project. "He personally pursued dozens of critical collections until they found a safe haven."

Among Mr. Walker's projects was a compilation of all known LGBT sites in San Francisco (begun by the late Eric Garber), which Rubin characterized as "the most comprehensive source of information on the locations, dates, and characteristics of San Francisco's gay bars, baths, sex clubs, and other businesses." He also coordinated the microfilm collection of Bay Area GLBT publications, including *The Ladder* and the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Mr. Walker became "an unparalleled authority on gay male erotica," according to Jordy Jones, who

worked with Mr. Walker at the historical society. "Walker saw history where many others saw mere rubbish," Jones said. "He rescued collections of porn from the estates of elderly gay men, saving them from certain disposal by squeamish relatives upon their owners' passing."

At the time of his death, Mr. Walker was working on a book entitled *Male Beauty: Great Photographers of the Physical Culture and Physique Movement*.

"He was a proud queer who reveled in his carefully nurtured eccentricity," Jones said. "He was also disarmingly charming, genuinely warm, quickly brilliant and a faithful and loving friend who will be profoundly missed by those who were fortunate enough to know him."

"Walker's energy and commitment to the GLBTHS was constant and enduring, and it is a big part of his legacy," said Rubin. "If people want to honor his work, his memory, and his unwavering commitment to preserving the queer past, they will do everything they can to make sure that it endures."

Mr. Walker is survived by his mother, a sister, a brother, several nieces and nephews, and a large circle of friends in the Bay Area and beyond.

A memorial reception honoring Mr. Walker's life will take place Saturday, October 23, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the GLBTHS, 657 Mission Street, Suite 300. Donations in Mr. Walker's memory may be made to the GLBTHS or to Hospice by the Bay. ▼

Magnet to collect unused AIDS meds

by Matthew S. Bajko

Beginning this weekend, Magnet, the gay men's health center in the Castro, will become a drop-off site for RAMP, the Recycled AIDS Medication Program. The San Francisco-based nonprofit collects unused medicines to send to people with HIV in Africa and Central and South America.

Homer Hobi, a member of the Humanist Movement, started RAMP in 1997 after receiving numerous medication requests from foreign nonprofit organizations. In 2000 Hobi partnered with Philip Freeman, a special education teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District, to expand

RAMP from its base in San Francisco to Southern California.

The medicines RAMP collects in the United States are sent to places like Chile's Laura Rodriguez Foundation and other groups in Mexico, Honduras, Uganda, Kenya and Zimbabwe. RAMP estimates the roughly \$2 million in unused medicines it distributes helps more than 300 people living with HIV worldwide.

Before dropping off any medicines, RAMP asks that donors remove personal names and prescription numbers from the labels on the bottles but retain the name of the medication, its strength and expiration date. RAMP does not accept all medications: it does not collect narcotics or tranquilizers and requests that anything more

than six months past its expiration date be discarded.

After the medication is gathered and sorted, the expiration dates are reviewed and cataloged before the medication is shipped to the foreign nonprofit organizations. The organizations distribute the medications only to those who are under the care of a licensed physician.

Magnet will become the only RAMP drop-off site located directly in the Castro. To kick-off its joining the program, the center is hosting a reception from 7 to 9 p.m. Saturday, October 16. Representatives and volunteers from RAMP will be on hand to answer any questions about donating unused HIV/AIDS medications. Refreshments will be served. Magnet is located at 4122 18th Street. ▼

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Getting bucked

by Jim Provenzano

Along with the two-stepping and rustic festivities, gay rodeos have been stirring up the dust all summer, with more to come this fall. Between the Western-style parties, some seriously athletic competition goes on. Twenty gay rodeos in the United States and Canada make up the International Gay Rodeo Association, which began in 1976. The grand championship will be held this week, October 14 through 17, in Omaha, Nebraska (www.igra.com).

Most rodeos include steer and bull riding, chute dogging, bareback bronc riding, and other events. IGRA president Colin

"Black Bart" Smith estimates competitors to be about 55 percent men and 45 percent women.

Two of the most difficult events are steer riding and bull riding. Smith is a longtime rodeo participant. "After watching my first gay rodeo from the stands in 1990, I decided I should try steer riding," he said. "I was truly clueless and unprepared – and yes, you really can see stars swirling around your head if you fall flat on your back."

Bull rider Sammy Van Galder recently competed at the Sierra Stampede, held in Sacramento. Born and raised on a farm in Colorado, he didn't take to rid-

ing animals for years. "I was always the scaredy cat, afraid to ride a horse," said Van Galder. "But as I got older I got over my fear."

He competed in saddle clubs and youth horse riding groups as a teen. While becoming aware of his sexual orientation, he never thought the two worlds of the GLBT and rodeo communities could coalesce. After moving to California and watching a gay rodeo in 1991, Van Galder set his sights on competing. He started in 1992 at events in Palm Springs and San Diego, where he said he got a lot of help from veteran competitors.

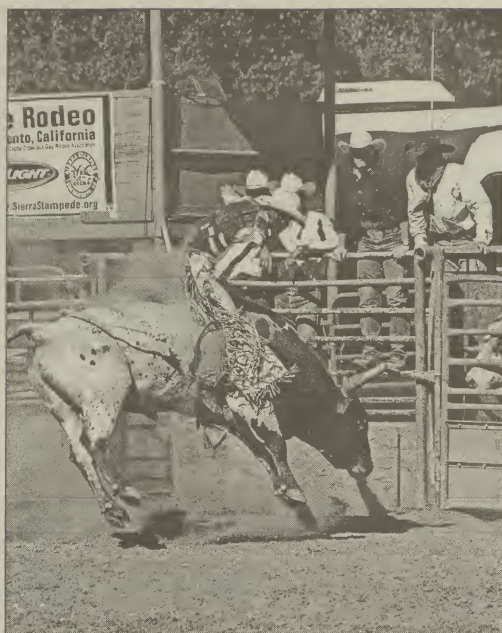
Starting on smaller animals, Van Galder, now 37, built up to riding steers and bulls. "Steers are much smaller, and also castrated, so they don't have as much aggressiveness," he explained.

Gay rodeos aren't exclusive. Straight participants are a regular part of the events. Of the gay cowboys and cowgirls who compete in mainstream rodeos, Van Galder said, "They may play it a little more cool. But with their talent at that level, people respect them more than for their lifestyle."

Gay rodeos don't offer prizes like larger rodeos, except for coveted belt buckles. In fact, most are nonprofits that raise funds for others, like the Southern Spurs Rodeo, held in Atlanta, which has so far given \$70,000 to local charities.

With many in the GLBT community concerned about human rights, it's understandable that the gay rodeo circuit has a few detractors concerned about animal rights. Some activists allege cruelty to human-animal competitions, and a few have protested outside recent rodeos.

"Gay amateur rodeos are much more cognizant of their treatment of animals [than mainstream rodeos]," countered Van Galder. "Some of the misinformation animal rights activists use leads to an emotional side." He said the bucking is not produced through abuse, but through training. "Rodeo animals know they're supposed to buck a person off.



Bull rider Sammy Van Galder competing in Sacramento

You don't have to encourage them to do anything."

Van Galder has also competed in the more lighthearted "camp" (drag) events, including the Wild Drag Race, where one of the human competitors must don a wig and skirt of questionable style, and Goat Dressing, where both man and beast become equally fashion-impaired.

Lacking a bull of his own, or even a mechanical one, Van Galder's training time is limited to workouts at the gym and horseback riding. Injuries play a frequent part in this rough riding event. Most male riders wear a protective cup, yet Van Galder has pulled both groin muscles and broken a few bones. In one particularly memorable tumble, he even split his lip on a bull's horn.

While rodeo is a competitive sport, few are able to commit to it full time; Van Galder works as an accountant, and considers his bull riding what he calls "more of a special hobby."

It's also a serious – and risky – hobby. Van Galder will compete in Washington, D.C.'s Atlantic Stampede again this year, two years after a bullpen accident killed a

fellow competitor and friend, Dean Berkan.

"You never know what can happen," recalled Van Galder, who witnessed the accident. "The steer became agitated in the chute and pulled him down before he even got out."

An IGRA fund started in Berkan's name supports safety and equipment needs at rodeos. The Rodeo Contestant Crisis Fund (www.rccf.org), a mainstream rodeo nonprofit, lists more than 70 recipients who suffered serious injuries in the past decade.

Although more competitors have taken to wearing mouth guards, helmets, and protective vests, none of these safety devices are required. Until crash-proof Stetsons are made, there may be some resistance to the armored look.

"Safety equipment is optional," said Van Galder, "but we promote it and try to encourage people to be as safe as possible." ▼

Send your GLBT sports info to: jimproven@yahoo.com. Visit www.sportscomplex.org for more columns.

Upcoming events

Meet gold medal cyclist Tyler Hamilton this Saturday, October 16 from 6 to 8 p.m., at Fort Mason. You'll also help a great cause: multiple sclerosis research and patient support.

At this special event, you'll hear Hamilton's tales from the 2004 racing season, and catch a special preview of the upcoming IMAX film *Brain Power*. This powerful new film explores the extraordinary processes of the human brain by following Hamilton as he trains and participates in the ultimate global sports event – the Tour de France – one of the world's most grueling competitions.

Tickets are \$30-\$150, with proceeds directly benefiting the Tyler Hamilton Foundation, which helps individuals affected by multiple sclerosis.

On Sunday, October 17 at 7 a.m., ride with Hamilton in the 75-mile Pedal for Progress, raising funds to help fight MS. Donations for the ride are \$75 for the grown-ups; kids ride free. The ride starts in Sausalito and heads north, skirting the base of Mount Tamalpais. Riders will pass through a few of Marin County's most charming towns via back roads and bike paths. This event is held in collaboration with Cliff Bar.

For more information, see www.tylerhamiltonfoundation.org. For more cycling events and news, contact the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition at www.sfbike.org or call (415) 431-BIKE. ▼

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Cheers to the 49ers



Not only did the San Francisco 49ers win their first game of the season Sunday (a 31-28 overtime thriller against the Arizona Cardinals), but owner Denise DeBartolo York was recognized at a reception October 7 that helped raise \$20,000 for the athletic department at Mission High School. The 49er organization donated \$10,000; individuals and corporate sponsors raised the remainder. From left, Scott Kennedy, Mission High athletic director; Dr. John York of the 49ers; DeBartolo York; 49ers player Arnez Battle; Supervisor Bevan Dufty; and Mission High Principal Kevin Truitt at the event.

COMMUNITY NEWS

District 7

◀ page 3

outsiders, a drunken party. I endorsed thinking that some police officers opposed. It [the 2003 event] was a textbook event — no problems, a tribute to the police department and a community working together toward a common goal. I'm very proud of how it turned out," Corrales said.

Corrales served on the task force stipulating Police Academy transgender sensitivity training and policies of respectful interaction in jail. "I made those recommendations," he said.

"Gay marriage doesn't bother me," said chiropractor Milton "Rennie" O'Brien. "If a gay couple is raising children, it makes sense they grow up in an environment like married people."

O'Brien claims 20 percent of his patients are gay. However, he said he would have trouble supporting city policy such as the one that granted medical benefits to transgender city employees that the Board of Supervisors passed three years ago. "If you want to enhance your body, I don't think taxpayer money should pay for it," he said. "If my wife wanted a nose or boob job my insurance won't pay for it."

Pedestrian safety

One of the most pressing issues facing this bedroom community is pedestrian deaths on the major thoroughfare of 19th Avenue, where eight fatalities have occurred in the past few years. All the candidates have practical, long-overdue suggestions on how to make this stretch of urban highway safer.

"Fat, double-wide crosswalk lines all the way down 19th Avenue, like they have around schools and special smart alert buttons for pedestrians to make the light stay red an extra 20 seconds, until a senior or disabled person gets through the crosswalk," said Lakey. "Enforce traffic laws through higher law enforcement visibility."

"Since District 7 elected Tony Hall, as many as eight people have been killed and it's incomprehensible to me that a six-lane highway lacks basic highway safety systems," said Grigg. "Seniors arriving at the intersection with the right of way when the light is in midcycle have no idea how long to travel. I want to consider any initiative to get people out of their cars and enhance pedestrian safety."

"Pedestrian countdown signals and bulb-outs [the curb point jutting out, preventing drivers from making sharp turns]," suggested Elsbernd. "The bigger issue here is that Caltrans has jurisdiction while we're the ones seeing fatalities. I'm concerned that people in the ivory tower in Sacramento are not cognizant of this. They need the local perspective."

O'Brien said that Police Chief Heather Fong recently assigned two motorcycle officers to work out of Taraval Station instead of the Hall of Justice.

Other District 7-centered issues concern patient safety and independence for residents at the 135-year-old Laguna Honda Hospital, the state's oldest nursing facility, with 1,200 beds, and the largest publicly owned nursing home in the U.S.

A court recently ordered the city to return a quadriplegic man, 25, to the hospital. The man had been accused of enlisting gang associates to beat up a fellow senior resident over a TV remote control. He and other young patients have been transferred because of overcrowding at San Francisco General Hospital. Staff members are increasingly con-

cerned over residents' safety.

Furthermore, the Justice Department has found the state violated federal law by needlessly segregating people with disabilities at Laguna Honda after protests by disability rights activists.

San Franciscans approved a \$299 million bond issue to rebuild the hospital two years ago. Designers promise the rebuilt facility will offer dignified assisted living.

"If we're going to put people there with violent criminal histories there's got to be a plan, funding, and mechanisms in place," said Grigg.

On housing disabled people convicted of violent crimes, Elsbernd said, "That's not under the charter of Laguna Honda. The elderly and disabled are not equipped to handle that."

"I've walked the halls," said Lakey. "It's atrocious, really sad, a lot of neglect. The money should go to reconstruction, and then get other sources of revenue for assisted living. I don't like institutional care for the elderly, but, I have an 80-year-old mother who would need care if she didn't have eight kids."

Two of the candidates have slightly varied approaches to drug use.

"I was responsible for some of those policies to decriminalize addiction, medicinal marijuana, to implement harm reduction strategies, like needle exchange, figure ways to address drugs in our society without resorting to prison for everyone," said Grigg of his stint as vice president of the Drug Abuse Advisory Board.

As a narcotics officer, Corrales led a raid on the former Market Street Cannabis Buyers Club in 1996.

"I still have reservations about the concept of medicinal marijuana," said Corrales. "I'm not satisfied that enough scientific testing has taken place. I have as much compassion as anyone for someone critically ill," he said, while still favoring conventional drugs for people who are "legitimately" sick.

The candidates also addressed homelessness, an issue even in the outer Avenues.

"Even people who are politically very progressive are tired of walking their little ones to school, dodging human land mines," said Corrales.

"Let's divert people from dangerous places to the safety web of nonprofits," said Elsbernd. "This is the city of St. Francis."

Two candidates with their fingers on the pulse of the District 7 electorate cited constituent dissatisfaction as an issue.

"I know from talking to a lot of community groups, they're very disturbed about the mayor selecting their representative," said Corrales. "They believe they should elect him, not have it done for them. A lot of people thought the mayor could have held off appointing Hall [to the Treasure Island commission] until after the election."

O'Brien also was critical of the mayor.

"He took Hall out of office, putting that young man in, which is undemocratic," said O'Brien. "He did that exposed lying on the floor with his wife [a reference to the fashion spread of Newsom and his wife, Kimberly spooning on a carpet at socialite Ann Getty's mansion in Harper's Bazaar September issue, headlined 'The New Kennedys.'] They didn't understand it. I want someone independent, not a rubber stamp for the mayor."

Elsbernd defended his recent foray into running for elective office.

"The most important thing to know about me is that there's no on the job training necessary," said Elsbernd. "I look forward to serving my constituents for four more years." ▼

BAY AREA REPORTER
CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION

COME PARTICIPATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF BUILDING INSPECTION'S BROWN BAG LUNCH TALKS at 1660 Mission Street, Room 2001 (second floor), Thursdays, Noon to 1:30 P.M.

The Department welcomes you to attend a series of informal, general information talks presented at no charge to the public and City staff. Bring your lunch; coffee and other drinks will be provided.

October 21, 2004

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SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER ASSURANCE

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Consumer Tip! Be aware of parking meters in San Francisco! that do not give the correct amount of time for your money. If you receive a parking meter ticket in San Francisco and you believe the parking meter is inaccurate, contact the Department of Consumer Assurance and one of our inspectors will test the meter for accuracy. If the meter is found to be inaccurate, the Department can help you challenge the ticket. Provide the meter number and location of the meter when calling or using the online complaint form.

The Dept. of Consumer Assurance protects San Francisco's citizens by researching consumer complaints regarding the sale of goods and services sold by weight, count or measure. Consumer protection includes testing scales, price scanners and packaged commodities in retail stores, testing taxicab meters for accuracy, testing gasoline pumps and many other devices. Inspectors regulate quality standards for produce, plants and flowers and complete pest inspections to protect California's billion dollar agriculture crops from diseases. The department protects consumers and businesses from dishonest practices that include fraud, deceptive practices or negligence. The Department also handles insect identification, bee inquiries and provides information about the Alameda Farmers' Market and Alameda Antique & Collectibles Market.

Contact the department to report possible fraud relating to weight, count or measure, deceptive packaging or advertising, retail store scanner pricing errors, inaccurate meters, short weight on products, substandard produce or illegal tobacco advertising. A consumer complaint form is available on our website at www.sfgov.org/casf or contact us directly with complaints. Help us promote equity in the marketplace in San Francisco!

For more information: San Francisco Department of Consumer Assurance, 501 Cesar Chavez, Suite 109A, San Francisco, CA 94124 (415) 824-6100; fax (415) 285-8776; TTY: 415-285-1214; Toll Free: (888) 966-SURE (7873) www.sfgov.org/casf

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO
SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To whom it may concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is/are: Fronterra, LLC. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, CA 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 965 Mission Street, Ste. # 160, San Francisco, CA 94103. Type of License applied for:

42 - ON-SALE BEER & WINE-PUBLIC PREMISES
SEPT. 30 OCT. 7, 14, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279286-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Dynamic Innovations 35 Guttenberg St. San Francisco, CA. 94112. This business is conducted by co-partners, signed Keilana Andaya. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-15-04.
SEPT. 23, 30 OCT. 7, 14, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279380-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Four Wet Feet, For Wet Feet, 4 Wet Feet, 4247 21st St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Robert S. Fullmer. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-20-04.
SEPT. 23, 30 OCT. 7, 14, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279406-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: CaprisoBing Consulting, 23 Richland Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Jennifer L. Bing. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 9-15-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-21-04.
SEPT. 30 OCT. 7, 14, 21 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279453-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: St. Francis Apartments, 1126 Bush St. San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Jimmy Chan. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 6-29-92. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-22-04.
SEPT. 30 OCT. 7, 14, 21 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279441-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: One Good Deed, 1332 10th Ave. #304 San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Kathy Elliott. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 9-21-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-21-04.
SEPT. 30 OCT. 7, 14, 21 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279433-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cafe Mars/The Truckstop Cafe, 798 Brannan St. San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a limited liability company, signed David Kieley. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-21-04.
SEPT. 30 OCT. 7, 14, 21 2004

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO
SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To whom it may concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is/are: Dmitry Melnikov. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 83 Eddy St. San Francisco, Ca. 94102. Type of License applied for:

47 - ON-SALE GENERAL
EATING PLACE
OCT. 7, 14, 21 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279610-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Priscila Janitorial Service, 2976 24th St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Carlos Arita. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 9-29-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-29-04.
OCT. 7, 14, 21, 28 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279215-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Farah Smoke Shop, 2345 Mission St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Ismail Ahmad Karajah. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 9-13-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-13-04.
OCT. 7, 14, 21, 28 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541570

In the matter of the application of Leonid Krivopaltsev for change of name. The application of Leonid Krivopaltsev for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Leonid Krivopaltsev has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Leonard Gestrin. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 2nd day of December, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
OCT. 7, 14, 21, 28 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541572

In the matter of the application of Rita Ravindra for change of name. The application of Rita Ravindra for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Rita Ravindra has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Rita Addante Ravindra. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 2nd day of December, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
OCT. 7, 14, 21, 28 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279714-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: RM Promotions, 547 Alvarado St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Rafael Montlerrosa. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10-01-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10-01-04.
OCT. 7, 14, 21, 28 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE # CNC 04541566

In the matter of the application of Jennifer Karen Roof for change of name. The application of Jennifer Karen Roof for change of name having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Jennifer Karen Roof has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Jennifer Katherine Roof. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 30th day of November, 2004 at 9:00 am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
OCT. 7, 14, 21, 28 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279418-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cooks Boulevard, 1309 Castro St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a limited liability company, signed Malcolm Haar. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 9-10-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 9-21-04.
OCT. 7, 14, 21, 28 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279872-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Guido's Trucking, 1601 Burrows St. San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Marcial A. Guido. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1-1-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10-06-04.
OCT. 14, 21, 28 NOV. 4 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0279872-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: N & S Janitorial Services, 305 Hyde St. #607 San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Nagi Mubarez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 10-07-04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 10-07-04.
OCT. 14, 21, 28 NOV. 4 2004

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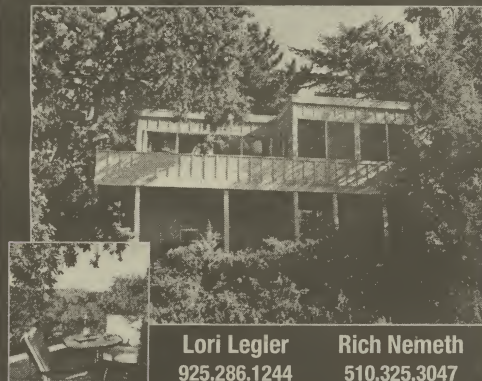
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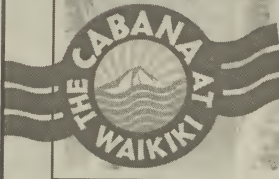
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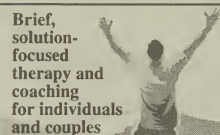
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Guys and dolls: Books in review.
John Preston's 'Mr. Benson' is reissued,
and 'The Secret Life of the Lonely Doll.'

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Musical champions
PBS series 'Broadway:
The American Musical.'

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Mother courage
Jonathan Caouette's film
'Tarnation' plays Castro.

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 34 • No. 42 • 14 October 2004

A true gay man of letters



A scene from Bill
Corey's *A Day in the
Life of Edmund White*

A talk with author Edmund White

by Jim Nawrocki

Edmund White's latest book *Arts and Letters* (Cleis Press) brings together 39 essays spanning nearly 20 years in the career of one of America's most accomplished men of letters. In addition to his autobiographical trilogy *A Boy's Own Story*, *The Beautiful Room Is Empty* and *The Farewell Symphony*, White has written several other novels, an earlier essay collection and a volume of short stories. His biography of Jean Genet won the National Book Critics Circle Award. He has also written a biography of Proust and a pair of books about his years living in Paris.

White's new essay collection offers a rare treat: a gifted writer's reflections on some of the most important writers of the 19th and 20th centuries. Thrown into the bargain are his conversations with some of the world's most intriguing painters, sculptors and photographers, as well as revealing celebrity portraits of Catherine Deneuve, David Geffen, Elton John and others. Common to all of these essays is White's erudition

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Roles and reversals

Billy Crudup, cross-dressing *Stage Beauty*

by Robert Julian

In 1660, when Charles II returned to the throne of England, he removed an 18-year ban on public performances. *Stage Beauty*, Richard Eyre's new film, begins as London theaters reopen and all female roles are played only by men. In this upside-down world (by contemporary standards), Ned Kynaston (Billy Crudup) is one of the leading Shakespearean drag actors of his time. But King Charles (Rupert Everett) soon passes a new law that outlaws men portraying women, and the theatrical status quo of the early 1660s is destroyed, along with Kynaston's career. With great skill and humor, director Eyre and screenwriter Jeffrey Hatcher take this premise and give birth to a charming, challenging and thoroughly entertaining motion picture.

Kynaston's dresser, Maria (Claire Danes), is enamored of her employer's fame, and she engineers her own after-hours turn onstage as *Othello's* Desdemona, Kynaston's most recent stage success. With a stolen wardrobe and borrowed money, Maria finds a patron in Sir Charles Sedley (Richard Griffiths), a man whose sexual advances were rejected by Kynaston. Maria also gets the attention of the King as she quickly works her way up the theatrical ladder from dresser to star. Kynaston quickly finds himself unemployed and unemployable, an actor whose sensational embodiment of feminine wiles does not provide him with the ability to create believable male characters. Adding insult to injury, Kynaston's lover and patron, the Duke of Buckingham (Ben Chaplin), dumps him for a woman as soon as Kynaston's career falters. Unfortunately for Maria, her stage career lands in the

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Ned Kynaston (Billy Crudup)
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Toward a gay Japan

Out There gets lost in translation

by Roberto Friedman

By the time we sat down with our hosts at the welcoming dinner in the Capitol Tokyu Hotel, Out There was hallucinating, Tokyo-style. No drugs were involved, just sleep deprivation, after crossing the International Date Line on the flight from SF to Tokyo, which set us down in Japan in the middle of the day after we left.

Had enough time to shower, not nap, before dinner. At 5:30 a.m. SF time, Tokyo's famous Chinese restaurant *Star Hill* served up a nine-course banquet, delivered on a lazy Susan. First dish: stringy and glutinous, though yummy. Further inquiry revealed we were chowing down on jelly-fish. Second course: shark-fin soup, which we always thought was illegal. Later, we would visit Tokyo's *Tsukiji Fish Market*, largest in the world, and see whale, octopi and ruby-red, sushi-grade tuna on the carving board.



Tentacles for sale outside Tsukiji



Protecting a Shinto shrine in Tokyo

OT is no virgin to Japanese cuisine, but after a few more evenings of fine dining, our hosts confided they found the way we used chopsticks amusing. True, we held them like pens, but we always got food to mouth, every last sea urchin and quail egg. In the end, we enjoyed *okonomiyaki* (latkesque), *izakaya*-style, sushi, tempura, and *shojin ryori* (veggie) meals.

First two Japanese characters we learned: Open Mouth. Together, they mean Exit, that's why we saw them on signs everywhere. Second two: Big Person, means Adults, as on the elaborate admission tickets which the Japanese issue, full of calligraphy and illustrations. OT has saved every one we received.

The invitation to participate in a gay press trip to Japan brought with it several mysteries. Would *Japan Air Lines* be able to stimulate gay travel to Japan, not traditionally thought of as a gay destination? What's gay life like there? Are there any out Japanese gay celebrities?

We flew JAL's Executive Class "Seasons" in a new Shell Flat seat, a luxurious capsule of total recline, comfort and technology. Ask the pilot: The SFO/Narita flights are numbered JL 001 & 002, the first two civilian flights across the Pacific after the end of WWII. Cocooned in our shell, we watched postwar Japanese noir films from Toho Studios: black-and-white, full of light and shadows.

But Japan was neon and modern. We toured ancient Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples, but also saw futuristic architecture

like *Herzog & de Meuron's* Prada shop, and *Philippe Starck's* Asahi building. We visited Tokyo, Kyoto and Osaka, all dense urban environs. Their citizens survive such close quarters with a truly different sense of personal space. On the rush-hour Tokyo subway, "shovers" wear white gloves and push you politely into the cars with boards. On elevators, people pack "like sushis."

in. We say "like sardines," they say "like sushi."

Box seats

Tokyo is a vast maze, its buildings numbered chronologically by when they were built. So you kind of have to know where you're going. *Sofia Coppola's* great film *Lost in Translation* got the sense of Western alienation down right. But we're not grateful to that film's *Bill Murray*-does-karaoke scene. Now a visit to a karaoke box w/yer mates is obligatory. So OT sang *Bowie: "Fashion!"*

Nightclub fun ringside at *Kingyo* in Roppongi, "non-gender-specific dancers" in continuous music and motion. We got an answer to our question re an openly gay Japanese celebrity: *Akihiro Miwa* is an actor, singer, fashion leader and speaker, well-respected by Japanese gays and straights. His website (*see box*) looks good, but is in Japanese only.

We wandered off alone until we got lost, easy enough, and stumbled upon a statue of

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Tokyo story: Neon and skyscrapers in the lively Ginza district, Tokyo.

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Partisan s/m party

'Laura's Bush' at Brava Theatre Center

by Richard Dodds

You get what you pay for. Playwright Jane Martin is foregoing royalties on productions of *Laura's Bush* staged before the Nov. 2 election. Brava Theatre Center has taken up the pseudonymous writer's offer, and its production is one of several opening more or less simultaneously across the country.

Jon Jory, former artistic director of Actors Theatre of Louisville, is the likely source of the Jane Martin oeuvre. It's a bit ironic since Martin's plays often deal with women's issues, but there's no denying that plays like *Talking With, Keely and Du*, and *Anton in Show Business* possess arresting theatricality and brash points of view.

While *Laura's Bush* has recurring moments of clever comedy, it mostly feels like a slapdash affair that wears out its welcome before its 70-or-so minutes are up. The opening-night audience laughed regularly, if not heartily, and showed the kind of vocally partisan support you find at a San Francisco Mime Troupe production.

In fact, Dan Chumley, long-time lead director for the Mime Troupe, is the director of *Laura's Bush*. But rather than the economic dialectic through which all Mime Troupe plays are filtered, the play at Brava views politics as a parallel to sexuality — usually the repressed kind.

The unabashedly silly plot finds a meek librarian in Silo City, Kansas, setting out to rescue Laura Bush when she interprets the First Lady's eye-blinking as Morse code for "Help me." With the help of a professional dominatrix, the librarian helps Laura Bush escape to a subterranean Peter Pan playhouse where booze, strip poker, and sex with Redd-Whip help pass the time. Turns



Joyful Simpson (dominatrix) sizes up Elizabeth Millican (Laura Bush).

out the real George Bush was a progressive intellectual until the neo-cons replaced him with a castro body-double from Iraq. Bill Clinton, Condi Rice, Hillary Clinton, Colin Powell, and Donald Rumsfeld all make appearances, but nobody is ever who they seem.


Chumley's direction sustains the farcical pace, and mirrors the casual structure of the script. The cast, most of whom are associated with the Rocco Risqué troupe, are a spirited group with little use for subtlety. Elisabeth Millican delivers the most recognizably human performance as Laura Bush, while Bekka Fink

provides the most inspired comic performance as Condi Rice. Joyful Simpson and Jean Johnstone, as dominatrix and librarian, play these lead roles with broad enthusiasm.

Laura's Bush is designed only for those whose passions are already on the play's side of the fence. But if it helps propel the converted, hooray. If not, hey, it didn't cost anything. ▼

Laura's Bush will run at the Brava Theatre Center through Oct. 31. Tickets are \$14-\$18. Call 647-2822 or go to brava.org.

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Hard knocks

'Addicted' life on stage

by Richard Dodds

Imagine a cross between a too-polished motivational speaker like Tony Robbins and the goofy-but-true social observations of George Carlin, and you get some idea of what Mark Lundholm has created in *Addicted*. His one-man show at Marines Memorial details a life as an addict and petty criminal in ways that score laughs without trivializing a really messy past. To do that, Lundholm offers up insights from the painful experiences, but they have a packaged slickness that can be a little off-putting.

Lundholm abandoned his wife and young daughter for a life of stoned misery and mishaps, and he began his career as a standup comic while in rehab. That was more than 15 years ago, and Lundholm has become an expressively physical storyteller who excels at zeroing in on the absurd. The muscular performer with a shaved head cuts a vaguely threatening figure when he first arrives



Mark Lundholm has a messy past.

on stage, and then right off tells us about one of his armed robberies. That's the effect he must want, so he can undercut it with the self-deprecating clown who becomes our guide for the 80-minute show.

Lundholm gleefully introduces us to seven personalities whose internal voices have always yanked

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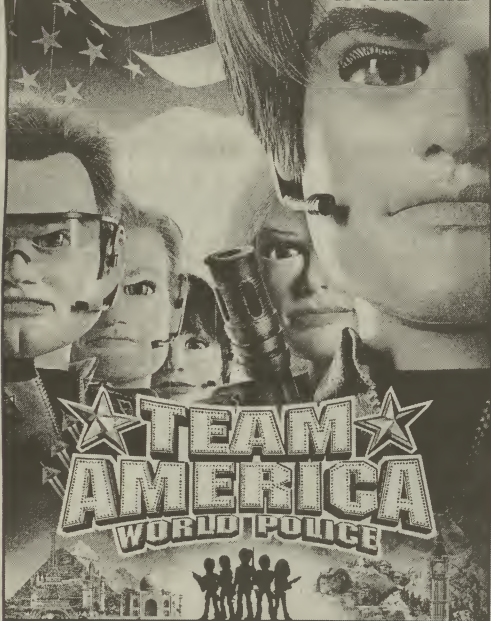
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Lullabies of Broadway

American musicals on PBS series

by Richard Dodds

Your tax dollars are at work in *Broadway: The American Musical*, a six-hour series airing Oct. 19-21 on PBS that might briefly unite Democrats and Republicans in how NEA and other federal arts money is spent. The ambitious project is about history, entertainment, and America.

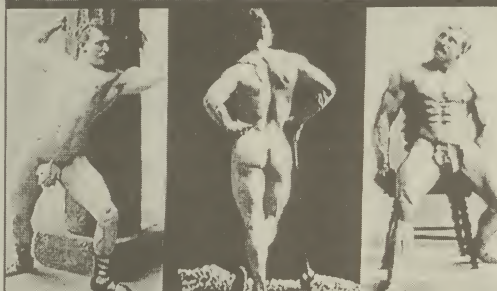
What helps set this series apart from other Broadway tributes, in addition to a no-expenses-spared collection of clips, is the social context that filmmaker Michael Kantor finds for the musicals and their eras. Blacks, women, Jews, immigrants, and, somewhat belatedly, gays are shown getting new recognition thanks to the Broadway musical.

The effects of war and the Great Depression on Broadway are examined, as well as the effects of Broadway on these national travails. At times, the narration by host Julie Andrews can get a bit overripe. "In an era of yearning dreams," Andrews says, "Broadway offered an effervescent antidote to America's darkest days."

The series also looks for the glass-is-half-full revisionism where it can. Al Jolson, for example, was not really demeaning anyone when he donned black face. He was "liberating himself," as per one of the numerous talking heads. And the invasion of British musicals like *Cats* and *Phantom of the Opera* somehow becomes interpreted as an American triumph.

The series is divided into six chronological 60-minute episodes, starting in 1897 and continuing right up to *The Producers*, *The Lion King*, and *Hairspray*. There are the familiar segments (how *Oklahoma!* changed musical theater) as well as the more arcane (how a new subway stop launched the area we now call Broadway). But what all segments share are the Herculean efforts made at uncovering rare photos, film, and video to illustrate the saga, and the stylish and imaginative ways in which the pieces have been mixed together.

These include a wondrous clip of Alberta Hunter and Eubie Blake in a duet, early talkies that preserved Broadway acts, newsreels, and informal clips showing familiar figures in new ways. As



Bodybuilder Eugen Sandow was an early attraction on old Broadway.

the series moves along, illustrating the great musicals gets easier, with *The Ed Sullivan Show* and the Tony Awards among the major sources. The sight of a giddy Ed Sullivan getting "flowered" by the cast of *Hair* is priceless.

But for me the most exhilarating moments are those home movies shot inside Broadway theaters. George M. Cohan and Gene Kelly, for example, are captured in high spirits in production numbers shot on 8mm that are more infectiously alive than when captured for the big screen. These clips are like truffles: rare and valuable.

Much is made in the narration of the "melting pot" character of Broadway, as various cultures contributed to its development. Contemporary director George C. Wolfe remarks that those early shows provided "permission to visit each other's lands and see what they are doing."

But the melting-pot discussion includes no mention of the thousands of gay artists who found pre-liberation refuge in the musical theater and obviously helped bend it in new ways. True, we see

photos of the nearly naked bodybuilder Eugen Sandow, and told that he could make ladies faint. Cole Porter's homosexuality gets a single sentence, and then the series goes silent on the subject until *La Cage aux Folles* and AIDS come along.

But even if not openly acknowledged, there is no shortage of gay faces on screen. And of course there is Stephen Sondheim, who is unusually generous with personal and creative stories, including the time as a teenager he ruined Mrs. Richard Rodgers' fur coat with his tears at the opening night of *Carousel*.

"It's not for sissies," Tommy Tune says of a career in theater, "contrary to popular beliefs."

Short scenes

• GayWriters is offering *An Evening with Terrence McNally* on Oct. 15 at Magnet, 4122 18th St. The playwright will talk about his career in the theater and take questions from the audience. The free event begins at 8 p.m. Contact GayWriters@yahoo.com for more info.

• Over at the SF Performing Arts and Library, it's *An Evening with David Henry Hwang*. Brad Rosenstein will interview the author of *M. Butterfly*. Admission to the Oct. 19 talk and reception is \$25. Call 255-4800 or go to sf-palm.org.

• Tennessee Williams' *Summer and Smoke* is getting an airing at Walnut Creek's Leshner Center, where the 1949 play opens Oct. 23. Lee Sankowich is directing the Center Rep production about the sexually smoldering Alma Winemiller. Call (943) 943-SHOW or go to dlrc.org.

• Say what you will about our President, but he has been an inspiration to artists. A new musical satire titled *By George, It's War* will run Oct. 27-28 at the 143 Throckmorton Theatre in Mill Valley. It's the creation of Dale Polissar and Doree Clark, and features a cast of nine. Call 383-9600 or go to 143throckmortontheatre.com. ▼



Stage actor Bert Williams in blackface on the Great White Way.

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.

Superlative performance

SF Symphony commits Mahler 9 to disc

by Philip Campbell

The last two weeks at the San Francisco Symphony have included a series of earth-shaking Mahler performances (committed to disc) and a pleasant but underwhelming visit with a superstar violinist who has been trying his hand at conducting for the past few years.

One could almost call it business as usual. The results of both concerts might have been fairly unsurprising, but the actual pleasure of sitting in Davies Hall and sharing the experience live proves rewarding with a solid regularity.

We all know that Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas has distinguished himself as one of the most important Mahler interpreters of the past decade. His ambitious project of recording all nine symphonies on the orchestra's own label has been a huge success, garnering Grammys and international acclaim.

The Ninth was originally scheduled for recording in 2003, but was postponed, presumably because MTT wanted more time to perfect the performance. If that was indeed the reason for the delay, the recent concerts validated his decision.

By the time Mahler himself had perfected his craft to the point where he could actually synthesize his entire philosophy of symphonic writing, it seemed inevitable that the Ninth would be his most important and affecting statement.

Tilson Thomas has also matured since his early days as the heir apparent to the late Leonard Bernstein's artistic ownership of the Mahler canon. There is a touching selflessness in his obvious devotion to the music and his quest for understanding another genius' intentions.

The tread of the vast score has rarely seemed so perfectly paced. The long and unconventionally slow opening movement moved with hypnotic effect; conductor and musicians communicated intensely. The closing Adagio, carefully avoiding any false sentimentality, thus turned out to be almost unbearably moving.

Where Bernstein injected much of his own theatrical imagination, MTT is clearly taking a more sober approach. No one will accuse him of grandstanding, and the emotional payoff is all the more satisfying.

Concertmaster Alexander Barantschik marshaled the strings



SFS Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas conducted Mahler's Ninth.

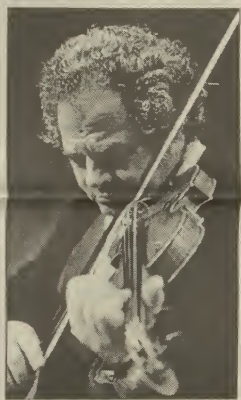
to unison playing of beautiful weight and transparency. Other soloists, notably acting principal trumpet William H. Williams, Jr., added exciting punctuation throughout the amazing reading. If Williams rather noticeably erred once, it only served as a poignant reminder that the musicians are mere mortals after all.

This will undoubtedly be the glorious crown of the entire project. Hopefully, MTT will be inspired to take on another cycle of symphonies. Could it be Sibelius or Shostakovich? We are keeping our fingers crossed.

Multiple tasks

Last week, beloved violinist Itzhak Perlman returned to the podium at Davies for an evening of multitasking as soloist and conductor. His performance was a little below par in both roles, but there was no denying his magnetism or sheer sense of genial professionalism.

As conductor, he essayed Mozart's Symphony No. 29 and Dvorak's Symphony No. 9, *From the New World*. Conventional choices but real crowdpleasers, and if he showed little interpretive distinction, that hardly mattered to his adoring audience.



Violinist Itzhak Perlman: genial.

Perlman also played and conducted the Bach Violin Concerto No. 1. He was unconvincing and rather old-fashioned in his "big band" approach. The authentic music movement has obviously not impressed him much, and his slack tempos isolated him from the rest of the orchestra.

It was still a happy concert and something of a love feast between the musicians and the appreciative crowd, even if Barantschik looked a bit nonplused at times. I would rather hear Perlman playing one of the big concertos with MTT conducting, but there is no denying his star power or charm in any repertoire. ▼

Working with director Bob Balaban, Lundholm is able to shift tones in a way that seems inevitable rather than jarring. When he recalls holding a revolver in one hand and a photo of his daughter in the other debating suicide in a motel room, the feeling of the moment trumps all.

Addicted is meant to be funny, sad, and life-affirming. Lundholm is a pro at all of this. But there are moments when you expect to hear the toll-free number where you can order a set of cassette tapes guaranteed to change your life. ▼

Addicted will run at the Marines Memorial Theatre through Nov. 14. Tickets are \$25-\$40. Call 771-6900 or go to marinesmemorialtheatre.com.

Addicted

◀ page 31

him in different directions. With the help of electronic voice manipulation, these warring factions periodically surface as their adored host stumbles through life. It's part of Lundholm's ability to make the audience a temporary partner in a life that may seem far removed from our own.

Lundholm takes us back to childhood, and a case of attention deficit disorder before it had a name. "I thought ADD spelled 'Dad,'" he says. And as for Dad, "He was so homophobic, he wouldn't eat a hot dog." The entire family — parents and kids — were thrown out of Disneyland after Dad picked a fight with the guy in the Goofy costume.

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Intergenerational romance

Talking 'P.S.' with director Dylan Kidd and actress Laura Linney

by David Lamble

Director Dylan Kidd likes to compare the explosive sex that Laura Linney and Topher Grace have shockingly early in his second film, *P.S.*, to the moment everyone remembers in *Psycho*. "Sadly, Janet Leigh just passed away, but our sex scene is like her shower scene, in that it happens way sooner than you're expecting, and it throws you — now the audience doesn't have a compass. In life, sex is where the problems begin. In a romantic comedy, you wait 'til they kiss, credits roll. Now you can have sex with anybody, but what is hard is trust or real intimacy."

Kidd made a splash with his debut feature *Roger Dodger*, in which a world-weary gent (Campbell Scott) takes his 16-year-old nephew Nick (Jesse Eisenberg) on a whirlwind tour of New York watering holes, dispensing the kind of girl-catching tips that would have once cost a young man a subscription to *Playboy*. Befitting the times, Scott adds a sour tone to the advice he's giving Nick. By film's end, you may assume that his main purpose was to warn the boy from becoming a loathsome "dog" like

himself.

As *P.S.* opens (script by Kidd and Helen Schulman based on her novel), Laura Linney's character is squirreled away in the admissions office at Columbia University like a clam in its shell. The arrival of an application bearing what appears to be the name of a boy she once loved causes Linney to fast-track his admission. Before you can say, "Please, Louise (her character's name), she has Grace's young painter in for an interview."

Without seeming lurid or sleazy, Linney and Grace have a startling erotic moment that appears to play out in real time, its intimacy and innocence bolstered by the sensual motion his hand makes across her bosom, and his comic fumbling with the condom.

Kidd wisely keeps the camera on one shot that stays above the belt, highlighting the scene's emotional heat. This boy and this woman have a past, and the remainder of the film debates their future.

P.S. is a film that removes the icky feeling that intergenerational romance sometimes connotes. This is not *Tadpole*, or *LIE*.

Physical contact

Linney, here to be honored at the Mill Valley Film Festival, says



Louise (Laura Linney) is locked down tight as a clam in its shell.

the scene's placement in the movie may seem abrupt because other scenes have been dropped. "Sex scenes are always tricky, and you have to make sure that the physical contact has purpose — are you learning what it means to each person? I happen to think it's a really good scene. There's no specific nudity, it's very sensual, they're both changed by it. It's actually a story within itself."

Linney has a great laugh, and

she laughs a lot during our chat, recalling, "Topher and Dylan were far more nervous than I was. They had never actually done a scene like that before, and I've had a little experience with those scenes." Although she's a New York City gal, Linney still possesses the kind of Midwestern freshness that made her Mary Anne Singleton so appealing in the TV version of *Tales of the City*. She downplays compliments. "It's just acting, or

it's in the script. You play the action, not the emotion."

Linney says Louise did present some special problems. "I've never been in a movie where I'm in every single scene. She's someone who is profoundly lonely and doesn't know how to get out of it. She's hit life-panic."

Before you can blink, you'll be seeing Linney as Mrs. Alfred Kinsey in Bill Condon's breakthrough film on the still-controversial sex researcher. Linney confirms that she did indeed go on a Krispy Kreme diet for the role. "I ate a lot of donuts, and I loved every single one of them!"

Director Kidd feels Linney gave her young co-star a special comfort zone within which he could shine. Kidd says Grace's romantic debut will leave audiences wondering who this guy reminds them of, Hugh Grant, perhaps? "Topher reminds me of Cary Grant, which sounds insane. It's very easy to emote and be James Dean. The harder thing is to be Cary Grant, to walk into a room and say, 'Tennis, anyone?' and have it feel like dialogue. Hopefully at the end, the audience feels this wasn't just a fling, that this isn't a flaky kid, but a man who's worthy of this woman." *Opens Friday.* ▼

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Stage Beauty

◀ Arts cover

gutter almost as quickly as Kynaston's when hundreds of prostitutes, courtesans, and would-be stage beauties challenge Maria's pioneering efforts on the stage.

Stage Beauty is packed with a cornucopia of extraordinary performances, none more flawless than Billy Crudup's Kynaston. After a series of lackluster film roles, Crudup finally lands a part with depth and humor, and he pours himself into corsets and rhymed couplets with equal intensity. Blessed with a handsome face and a lean, muscled dancer's body, Crudup is visually and dramatically perfect. Claire Danes proves a worthy equal in the intensity department, and both of these American actors master their British accents. But the supporting roles keep the film moving, and Ben Chaplin has never been as sexy as he is portraying the opportunist Duke of Buckingham. Rupert Everett, a *magna cum laude* graduate of his own peculiar gay charm school, creates a memorable King Charles — a monarch supremely superficial and silly, but somehow wise and mature at the same time. But the film's real scene-stealer is the rotund Richard Griffiths as the smarmy Sir Charles Sedley, Maria's patron. Griffiths portrays a lord who is bitchy, manipulative, vengeful, and, more often than not, completely clueless. When Best Supporting Actor Oscar nominations are announced, if Griffiths' name is not among them, there is no justice in this world.

Joy ride

It is quite possible to appreciate *Stage Beauty* for the simple joy of the experience. Tim Hatley's costume designs and Andrew Dunn's photography are beautiful to behold, and director Eyre pushes the story forward with wonderful timing and great dramatic flair. But the careful observer will find subtext embedded in Jeffrey



Claire Danes as Maria: intense.

Hatcher's literate script that hints at thematic mysteries the film does not resolve. On its most superficial level, *Stage Beauty* is a comic romance, or possibly a melodrama based on historical fact. But the dilemma of Kynaston (the last drag Shakespearean actor) and Maria (the first female Shakespearean actress) casts long contemporary shadows. The 21st-century issues raised, but not resolved, have to do with gender identity and sex-role stereotypes. Were Kynaston's female portrayals personally liberating or confining? Was he homosexual or simply stereotyped into a particular sex role? Is Maria freed or enslaved by the ascendance of her gender onto the public stage? And most importantly, when society's demands and expectations can be put aside, who are we as individuals, and how do we figure out the answer to this all-important question?

The particular genius of *Stage Beauty* is its ability to incorporate these contemporary themes in a subtle way that celebrates the magic of film, the history of theatre, the joy of acting, and the eternal challenge of negotiating a social contract that accommodates one's own sexual desires. No film in recent memory has undertaken such an ambitious agenda and pulled it off with such aplomb. ▼

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FILM

Emotional rescue

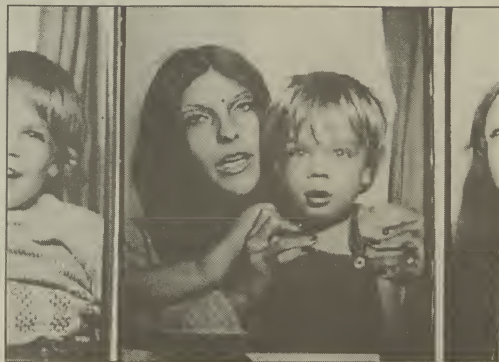
Castro Theatre hosts week-long run of 'Tarnation'

by David Lamble

Like many an androgynous youth, Jonathan Caouette used to dress up in the best drag he could lay his 11-year-old hands on, and channel some fabulous damsel of his own invention. Twenty years after they were recorded on a big, boxy videocamera, a gift from a cartoonist at the *Houston Chronicle*, Caouette's monologues are riveting and a little scary. Where did this man-child acquire both this B-movie sensibility and the moxie to carry off being his own doomed heroine?

Chain-smoking in a motel room, the now-31-year-old Caouette, dressed in a lightweight football jersey (#11), talks about his early crossdressing persona. The young Jonathan, whose voice would retain its girly upper register until well through his early teens, didn't think of himself as female, wasn't saving up to get his privates altered, but did find in his girly-boy period a handle for relating to the latest horrible chapter in the life of his beloved mother.

Caouette's mother, Renee LeBlanc, once seemed to have a bright future. A pretty girl, she attracted the attention of a fashion photographer. But a fall off the roof of the family garage derailed Renee into a series of Texas mental hospitals, where she was tagged bi-polar and subjected to then-state-of-the-art treatment: electroshock therapy. After traveling



Jonathan Caouette and his mother, Renee LeBlanc, in family photos.

through her own private cuckoo's nest, Renee returned home to Houston to bond with her son, who himself had been stuck in a series of abusive foster homes. In addition to its stark portrayal of the coming of age of a gayboy artist, Caouette's breathtaking first film, *Tarnation*, documents the passionate love of a boy for his mother.

Jonathan's artistic world view was shaped by a very bad drug experience, an angel-dust-tainted joint that induced a condition called depersonalization, where the person has to constantly remind himself to stay in the moment. All through our conversation, Caouette would light a series of filtered 100s, and take me on a tour of his very fascinating mind,

which had to navigate a complex pattern of digressions, never sure that it shouldn't actually be running down the road not taken.

Early on, he figured out his attraction to men, especially older men, confessing to a kind of Lolita complex. There's one audacious monologue, recorded during a stay in a Texas mental hospital on a tape-recorder furnished by his grandfather, in which he extemporizes a poetic rationale for intergenerational love worthy of Wilde or Whitman.

Crush velvet

Caouette describes an agonizing period when he had a heavy crush on a 25-year-old ticket-taker at Houston's River Oaks theatre, reciprocated by the "older

man" but not acted on. The River Oaks was also the site of his most important cultural discoveries: the first sighting of *Blue Velvet*, a film that would later inspire a Houston high school musical, and turn Caouette into a fledgling artiste.

It's time now for one of those mind-altering Caouette monologues. It was his answer to my first question, how does a teenage boy turn into a B-movie heroine?

"I still can't explain where it comes from, and I almost don't remember doing it. I do remember the [cultural] reference that

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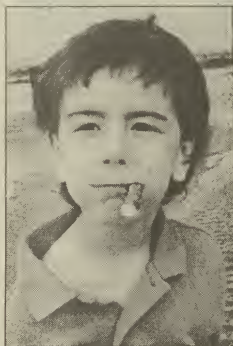
The weed in the garden

'Bright Leaves' at the Roxie Cinema

by David Lamble

The name Ross McElwee may not roll off your tongue, unless you're also from his ancestral home county in North Carolina. McElwee is obsessed with how his roots impinge on history. Documentary junkies will surely recall some long weekend holed up at a rep theatre with a super-burrito and a Mexican beer, taking in McElwee's *Sherman's March*. That film began as a serious account of General Sherman's March through Georgia, but McElwee lost interest in the General's problems, substituting his own romantic difficulties. *Sherman's March* became the best survey of eccentric Southern womanhood on film (*Steel Magnolias* notwithstanding) as McElwee tracked down each and every ex-girlfriend, and delved into why she'd dumped him.

Bright Leaves, opening at the Roxie, is a comparatively brief (105-minute) excursion into McElwee's great-grandfather's history as a tobacco mogul, and into the shadow that the green leaves have cast upon the state's core identity. In making a cautionary tale about the evils of smoking or chewing, McElwee mostly has a great deal of fun with a subtle form of ancestor-bashing. His great-grandfather turns out to have been a bit of a control freak, getting all his relatives to live in houses lined up in a row. Asked if the old boy had a sense of humor,



Dark shadows of tobacco leaves.

an elderly cousin looks puzzled. "I don't know about that, but I know he lost his teeth."

In a witty excursion through the local courthouse, McElwee learns that John Harvey McElwee also lost a Titanic legal battle over the rights to the Bull Durham trademark to his rival, the Duke, whose name was subsequently branded onto everything worth naming in the state. Passing by the Duke mansion with a female cousin (practically everybody is on the family tree), McElwee has a guilty daydream about what might have been. "As we wander around, it occurs to me if things had gone a bit differently, this would have all been mine. I would now be sitting on an enormous family fortune. Duke University would now be known as McElwee

University."

Later, the cousin sees that the modest home of McElwee's youth lies practically in the shadow of the Duke mansion, and comments tartly, "It's a beautiful house, kind of Duke's outhouse. You better do more research on this, Ross."

The film's title arises from his discovery (from another cousin) of a film whose hero (Gary Cooper) is based loosely on his great grandfather. "A cinematic heirloom, a kind of surreal home-movie enacted by Hollywood stars, *Bright Leaf* would stand as a version, perhaps a tad melodramatic, of my great-grandfather's rise and perhaps ruin."

McElwee doesn't skirt the downside of addiction to the weed. The cousin tells of a sister who is killing herself via a three-pack-a-day habit. Once he returns to his adopted hometown of Boston, McElwee gets his 12-year-old skateboarder son to help him record sound at the bed of a cancer patient, unable to kick a habit that has led her to a morphine drip. "I wish everybody had morphine to get off cigarettes."

Bright Leaves is a refreshing counterpoint to the new Puritanism of today's anti-smoking movement. McElwee visits with a farmer whose skin is cracked and lined as the leaves he grows. Asked what the local preacher has to say about tobacco, the man shrugs and says, "Just like the rest of us, he don't know what to say. He's got mixed feelings about it." ▼

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Chanticleer's sweetness

Transcendence Gospel Choir's conviction

by Jason Victor Serinus

God has no respect of persons," was a phrase I heard over and over in the summer of 1965, as a civil rights voter-registration worker in North Carolina's Martin County. Almost 40 years later, when the Democratic National Convention's representatives for the first time accurately reflected the rainbow composition of our society, white people are daring to embrace music usually performed by African-Americans. From German baritone Thomas Quasthoff's recent awesome San Francisco Performances encore of "Old Man River" to Chanticleer's new recording of spirituals and traditional gospel music *How Sweet the Sound* (Warner Classics), audiences are discovering how music and diversity-embracing activism can transcend racial division.

The all-male Chanticleer vocal ensemble is hardly all-white. For much of its existence, it has benefited immeasurably from the multiple gifts of its African-American music director Joseph Jennings. Jennings imparts an authentic

spirit to this disc, not least by arranging all the selections, providing authentic-sounding upright piano accompaniment, and occasionally offering his voice.

Equal blessing comes from Bishop Yvette A. Flunder (aka Rev. Dr. Yvette Flunder). From her beginnings singing in her grandfather's San Francisco church, Flunder exchanged a solo career for singing and preaching internationally with the famed Hawkins Family Singers. In 1991, she founded the City of Refuge Community Church and Ark of Refuge, Inc., in SF, training African-American church ministries in HIV/AIDS prevention education, and offering housing and support services to people living with HIV/AIDS.

Eight years later, she developed the *One Voice: Gospel Artists Respond to AIDS* educational campaign and gospel concerts with the Centers for Disease Control. As Bishop of Fellowship 2000, a group of 54 churches, Bishop Flunder travels internationally, singing and preaching a message of inclusivity for all peoples.

What all this talent translates

into is an inspiring disc. Despite frequent personnel changes, Chanticleer remains a crack ensemble. Thanks to Jennings' direction, every note is perfect, every harmony shining. Flunder sings "God" the way most people in America pronounce it, while the white boys make the word sound more profound by singing "Gawd." But they've got the idiom down pat. Even Philip Wilder's curiously fem soprano solo on "Keep Your Hands on the Plow," exclaimed in a voice more suited to quilting than fieldwork, in the end earns smiles rather than criticism. This is a disc to banish cynicism.

In Joseph Jennings' arrangements, harmonies, phrasing, and rhythms are constantly alive and changing in ways that enhance rather than distract from the spiritual message. The traditional "There is a Balm in Gilead" begins with the chorus offering wordless



Rev. Dr. Yvette A. Flunder solos with all-male vocal ensemble Chanticleer.

background as Flunder starts her solo. Only when she begins the recapitulation do the boys begin to sing the words, underscoring her voice with a softness that sounds like balm indeed. In the subsequent extended "Poor Pilgrim Medley," longtime ensemble member soprano/recent departee

Christopher Fitzsche's very high solo is strikingly followed by veteran Eric Alatorre's deep bass at the start of "Poor Pilgrim of Sorrow."

Spirit and then some also abounds in the Transcendence Gospel Choir's *Whosoever Believes* (AMOR). Based in the Bay Area,

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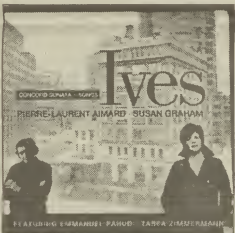
by Tim Pfaff

With all the cant about "American values" having become one of the horrors of The Election, it's refreshing to re-encounter them in music. For the definitive autopsy of the putrefied language, don't miss Joan Didion's "Politics in the 'New Normal' America" in the October 21 *New York Review of Books*, which reads like music as excoriating and carefully constructed as Berg's. But there has been "real" music, too.

The 50th anniversary of Charles Ives' death has yielded some potent reminders of what American individualism meant before it devolved into unilateralism and worse. On CD, pianist Pierre-Laurent Aimard has delivered a whopping enactment of Ives' quintessentially American "high thinking" with his colossal, feral performance of the "Concord" Sonata, with 17 Ives songs rendered by mezzo Susan Graham (Warner Classics). Now comes the debate, with another new recording of the Sonata, by Marc-André

Hamelin, who pairs it with the Samuel Barber Sonata (Hyperion).

Although Ives, naturally, made changes in the piece every time he played it publicly, both CDs are performed from the now-standard 1947 published edition.



What's most arresting about that music is not its wildest gestures and most cacophonous chords (although they produce a real rush, and just the kind of music both of these difficulty-loving pianists relish) but its unalloyed seriousness, even solemnity. It's not bleached of the prickly irony that makes Ives Ives, but it's less sardonic than many, and suffused with a sense of deep tribute.

The ancestors are Beethoven (whose "Hammerklavier" Sonata and the opening of the Fifth Symphony crop up regularly — or, more to the point, irregularly) and the American Transcendentalists after whom the four movements are named: Emerson, Hawthorne, The Alcotts, and last but far from least, Thoreau. Ives makes no attempt to distill their central ideas ("plain living and high thinking," as my mother the American Literature teacher used to mumble over the pancake griddle) into music; accepting a greater challenge, he responds to the spirit of each.

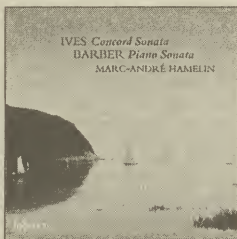
"Uncompromising" is the word that comes to mind. The sense of spiritual solace that pervades the work is based on its rigors.

You'd think that musicians who could play this bear of a piece at all would produce something that sounded pretty much the same. But, to the credit of the three of them (Aimard, Hamelin, and Ives), these CDs yield some-

times startlingly different sound-worlds.

Characteristically, Aimard prowls the premises for the steak tartare and devours all that's animal in it with finger-licking voracity but impeccable table manners. The rebel in him finds an ideal match in the world, overturning Ives, and the results can make you flinch. In the central section of "Hawthorne," exquisitely voiced chords that Aimard pedals into evanescent harmonics literally get trampled by marches and saloon music that haul you into a musical house of horrors, dissonances piled on dissonances. Offsetting that, though, is a tenderness (of a dense, not quite cuddly kind) in "The Alcotts" so idiomatically American in stopping just short of the hell-fire of sentiment that you have to cheer Aimard for looking so deeply into the morass of the American soul.

No less than Tabeta Zimmerman and Emanuel Pahud play the optional viola and flute parts in "Emerson" and "Thoreau," respectively. Brief as their appearances are, they make a difference in a work in which every note counts (and is counted).



Knuckle pie

Hamelin, who has made a career of making knuckle-busting piano scores sound like crustless finger-sandwiches, stays closer to the craggy, dangerous surface of the piece, shows even daintier table manners, and "rounds" out some tones Aimard lets ruin his nails. Mostly, he substitutes propulsion for percussion in a performance that grasps more than penetrates the work. It's a

next page ►

FILM

Stephen Fry cooks

Directing 'Bright Young Things'

by Tim Nasson

Stephen Fry has come a long way since his three-month stint in Pucklechurch Prison for credit card fraud, in the late 1970s. After mending his ways and graduating from Queens College in 1982, Fry went on to write the version of *Me and My Girl* that would earn him a Tony nomination in 1987, and put his first million dollars in his pocket before the age of 30.

The 6-ft., 5-in. Brit has not been wanting since. Best known to British audiences for his role in the highly successful BBC series *Blackadder*, and to Americans for his role as *Wilde*, Fry is now making an impression on international audiences with his film directorial debut, *Bright Young Things*, an adaptation of Evelyn Waugh's novel *Vile Bodies*.

The film takes a look into the lives of a young novelist, Adam (Stephen Campbell Moore), his would-be lover Nina (Emily Mortimer), and a host of young people who beautified London in the 1930s.

Just how did Fry, who had never directed a feature film before, get his break?

"I wrote the screenplay for the film," Fry explains by phone from his home in London, "and agreed to produce it along with some other people. When I delivered the screenplay, I suggested that John Madden [*Shakespeare in Love*] direct. The other producers said, 'We have someone else in mind. You.' I did not write the screenplay with myself in mind to direct, so went back and reread it,

Fry adapted Waugh's *Vile Bodies*.

and ultimately decided that I should give it a go."

In addition to its two leads, the film also boasts Peter O'Toole, Jim Broadbent, Stockard Channing, Simon Callow, Dan Aykroyd and others of their ilk. "London is like a little village. By the time you're 40, you've met everyone," Fry said when I asked how he secured O'Toole for a role. "We both have a love of cricket, and I would often sit next to him at the matches. After giving him the rundown of the movie one afternoon, I just asked him if he would be interested in a small role." O'Toole's response was, "Sounds delightful, darling. Sure, I will do it."

Out, never in

Fry is gay and not shy to admit it. He said he was "never in the closet."

"The first time my sexuality was reported in the press," he said, "was when a reporter, more than

20 years ago, asked me if I had a girlfriend. I answered him, 'No. They do nothing for me.'"

He told his parents he was gay when he was 17, but his mother claimed to have always known. "I guess it had something to do with my way with a hairbrush. I don't understand why so many out actors are from Britain, what with me, Rupert Everett, Alan Cumming, Ian McKellen. You guys, with a much bigger population and acting community, have Nathan Lane and David Hyde-Pearce. I guess it's just not a big deal over here. I can play straight just as well as I can play a murderer. I can assure you I have never murdered anyone in real life but can convince you of such an act on the screen, just as in *The Good Father*, I hope I convinced everyone that I was a heterosexual, married man."

Bright Young Things is rated R. But there's not an ounce of violence, not one cuss word, not a glimpse of cleavage, let alone a completely unadorned bosom or derriere, nothing one would normally equate with an R rating.

"It's quite ludicrous," Fry admitted. "Who are those ratings people?" According to the ratings board, the film was given an R rating for "drug use." In the '30s, cocaine was making a splash in fashionable circles, and the movie, staying true to its time, portrays it realistically, with a few partying scenes.

Next up for Fry is a starring role in BBC's *Absolute Power*. "No, it's nothing like the Clint Eastwood movie of the same name! It's more of a dark satire on the public relations industry. Much more dark than *Spin City*." ▼

Tarnation

◀ page 35

inspired me. It came from watching an episode of *The Bionic Woman* in Houston. It was the episode where Lindsay Wagner gets cloned, and they throw the real Lindsay Wagner into this sort of insane asylum where she's being tortured by Katherine Helmond, and there's a picture of the person who's going to replace her, and she's in this padded cell in a straightjacket, screaming for her life.

"Wagner's way-over-the-top, a way-ahead-of-her-time actress, way too good for primetime TV. I would love to work with her one day. But she reminded me of my mother a little bit, and there was something about that '70s sensibility that she had. So I kind of personalized it: here's a woman who kind of looks like my mother who's losing it.

"That evening, I had seen on PBS, *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf*. Alfre Woodard was looking right into the camera, and she was muttering, 'I'll kill that bitch!' I took both of

those elements, and I channeled them into this fictitious character that I just sort of pulled out of my butt. It became an impromptu monologue in which I was talking about what my mother was going through with a second failed marriage. She was being very severely abused, and that was one of many ways that I would deal with things. I don't know if it was being gay or wanting to be a filmmaker or performer that was my saving grace, but thank god for film."

Suitcase museum

Escaping Houston for New York, Caouette dragged what was now the museum of his adolescence — 160 hours of home video, super-8 film, audiocassette diaries, snapshots, answering machine tapes and every possible format — in a suitcase, hoping that life in bohemia would shape the raw material.

News that his mother, now living with his grandfather, had taken an overdose of lithium triggered an emergency journey back to Houston, the rescue of Mom, and a satisfying end to the now-88-minute final cut of the movie.

Befriended by the royalty of

his new world (*Tarnation* executive producers Gus Van Sant and John Cameron Mitchell), given a triumphant Sundance screening and the green light for a second, even more challenging film, Caouette can look back on a Texas childhood that not every kid could survive. Tucked away in the middle of his film, there's a quiet remembrance for the Houston streetkids who didn't make it, kids with street names like Bam Bam, who strutted their stuff at gaykid clubs like Visions.

Caouette says he wouldn't change anything about his upside-down childhood. He's grateful to his wonderful, daffy family, always available to be his superstars, especially grandmother Rosemary, in some ways his Edith Massey. He hopes his grandfather Adolph doesn't come off as a mad man, especially in the film's final scenes where Grandpa's gun comes out of the drawer. Caouette originally planned a surreal ending in which he would be shot to death by his grandfather, only to be reunited, buck-naked, in the arms of his cute Colombian boyfriend, in *Tarnation's* version of Heaven. *Opens Friday at the Castro Theatre.* ▼

Couriers of Ives

◀ previous page

fine enough reading that it would have drawn raves had not Aimard beat him to the punch, and then punched hard and deep.

Hamelin fills out the CD with an equally accomplished reading of Samuel Barber's Piano Sonata,

Op. 26, a piece without an idea in its pretty gay head and hyperactive mind — even if it can pull off a creditable fugue in the finale. It's a show-off piece tailored-made for Horowitz, and I privately hope this fearless rendition of it will render any further ones superfluous.

Susan Graham's Ives songs, on the other hand, which precede the

sonata, are the best imaginable complement for and curtain-raiser for it. There's gravitas (and aching simplicity) from the first phrase of "The Things Our Father Loved" ("I think there must be a place in the soul all made of tunes." Graham leaves no doubt that there is) to the concluding "Thoreau," and gobs of fun in-between. ▼

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Edmund White

◀ Arts cover

and honesty, as well as his graceful style and generous spirit. Recently, he sat with the *BAR* to discuss the essays.

Jim Nawrocki: You list Nabokov, Merrill, Proust, Isherwood and Genet as personal icons. What creative qualities of theirs do you most admire?

Edmund White: Nabokov I admire because he is the supreme entertainer, if "entertainment" can mean a simultaneous appeal to the intelligence, memory, feeling and sensuality. Merrill is the Nabokov of poetry, though he goes much further towards creating a strong personal myth. Merrill has also shown how social comedy can conceal the depths of emotion — no wonder he loved *Der Rosenkavalier*!

Proust turns out to be the supreme writer of the 20th century, for the many devious ways he combined the personal and the political, the autobiographical and the entirely invented. Even though he writes about a rarefied world, his insights into time, love, jealousy, art, and family life are the truths that affect us all, no matter how humble our backgrounds.

Isherwood is the founding father of modern gay fiction with *A Single Man*, the single most important gay novel in English of the 20th century, and the first to show a gay protagonist unashamed and unexplained.

Genet, writing 40 years earlier, invented the drag queen for literature (*Divine in Our Lady of the Flowers*) and brought a tough-guy intransigence to what had been, until then, a literature of apology

and pathology.

You speak admiringly of Grace Paley's gift for writing politically-inspired fiction. Given what's going on in our country and in the world today, would you like to see more writers take on politics in their work?

Yes, I think it's shocking that so many writers are still writing fiction about their father's death, their arguments with their mothers and the thrills of adultery when there are so many great serious issues to address. These issues can certainly be treated imaginatively — I'm thinking of

You label one trend in recent gay fiction as "post-gay" writing, "in which one or two characters might be gay, but in which they are more or less inserted into a more general society." Do you see this development as a kind of victory for gay writers, or for gays?

Of course it can be used as a strategy for keeping mainstream readers, and in that sense it could be cynical. But in general, I think it brings gay writers back into the center of people's concerns. Whereas my fiction is read mostly by gays, *The Hours* was read mostly by straights, and that's all to the good, since it exposes

'Compared to a real celebrity, I'm a big nobody, but I do understand some of their peeves a bit better. They teach you not to deduce character from home decor, but no one observes this rule.'

Gabe Hudson's wonderful book of stories about the first Gulf War, *Dear Mr. President*.

In your essay "Writing Gay," you mention that you originally planned your series of autobiographical novels as a tetralogy, but in the end collapsed the '70s and '80s into one volume (*The Farewell Symphony*). Was that a difficult decision? Can you envision yourself revisiting AIDS in future fiction?

I think I've probably written out AIDS, though it's in my memoirs, which I've just finished. It's always in the background.

straight readers to gay content in acceptable doses and makes gay experience familiar, which is a progressive move.

You argue for an historical fiction that "unearts" the past, "not as we would have it be, but as it truly was." You also defend Brad Gooch's biography of Frank O'Hara as a true depiction of the life that the poet lived. Do you think this is something endemic to American culture, a tendency to recreate history and biography to suit our needs?

What is considered shocking and daring is usually just a very



"Before 'gay' became so conspicuous, a lot more guys experimented."

small deviation from the norm. Anything that truly delves into transgressive material, like Samuel Delany's *The Mad Man*, is quickly sidelined.

There's a moment during your interview with Cy Twombly in which he laments the fact that writers are paid so terribly. Do you share that view? What's your take on the current state of American publishing?

I think that publishing is like cable TV or the Internet, it's moving towards atomization and dispersion. In the past, we had the Book of the Month Club and three channels and no Internet; you could always be sure that the secretary at the next desk at work had seen the same Alcoa Theater Hour or read the same James Gould Cozzens novel. Now the culture is more and more fragmented, at the same rate that the economy and politics are more and more consolidated. People read and buy books, but the books are fanzines or graphic novels or porn or fiction online or blogs. Does this constitute literature? I don't know. Is it more or less democratic? I don't know.

There's a nice moment in your discussion with Catherine Deneuve in which you bond with her over your mutual dislike of the way interviewers sometimes describe you. How has the sense of your own celebrity shaped the way you examine and respond to the celebrity of others? It seems as if it's made you more sympathetic to them.

Well, compared to a real celebrity, I'm a big nobody, but I do understand some of their peeves a bit better. Like making awful remarks about how one looks. One critic recently said that I was the fattest writer in America, rivaled only by Harold Bloom. Then he e-mailed me the article to make sure I didn't miss it. In journalism school, they teach you not to deduce someone's character from his home decoration, but no one observes this rule.

I admire the way you address the topic of bisexuality in your '95 essay about Marjorie Garber's work. Have your views of bisexuality and gay sexuality changed at all since then? Do you think it's

fair to say that American views on sexuality, hetero- and homo-, are somewhat simplistic?

Well, some people who say they are bisexual are just closeted. But others really are bisexual, and the gay and the straight communities aren't very tolerant of them, because bisexuals are unpredictable, not easy to categorize. Before "gay" became so conspicuous and discussed as a minority, a lot more guys experimented with it casually — which I thought was fun.

You write admiringly about Allen Ginsberg, and describe the encounters you had with him. Beats are still revered in American culture, at least in youth culture; they seem to be able to enchant new generations of younger readers. Do you admire the writing of the Beats?

I love *On the Road*, and certain Ginsberg poems like "Wales Visitation." I love the free-love, bohemian, Buddhist, peacenik, jazz-listening mix of the Beats, and their spontaneity, the whole "first-thought, best-thought" credo.

You write very well about visual art, artists and photographers. Have you ever fantasized about working in the visual arts yourself?

No, but I admire artists and photographers, and respond to their work. The contemporary arts are also a great trope for more general discussions about the culture.

Who are you reading these days?

My favorite writer just now is Jean Giono, a lyrical nature writer and epic novelist (*Horseman on the Roof*) from Provence of the 1930s-'60s. He brings me more pure pleasure than any other writer. He writes densely, there are at least two things going on in every sentence. His character, Angelo, who appears in five different novels, is a great Stendhalian hero.

You're working on a memoir now? How has that process been going?

I found it to be a lot of fun, and a bit like auto-analysis in the sense that I made connections where I never suspected they existed. I always thought a memoir would be a sobering project, but I found it to be quite giddy. ▼

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BOOKS

Valley of the doll

by Glen Helfand

The Secret Life of the Lonely Doll
by Jean Nathan, Henry Holt and
Company, \$25

There's a particular genre of children's book that relies on the allure of photography. They're the ones with stuffed critters and doll-like figures enacting spooky Grimm's Fairy Tales in constructed gingerbread worlds. I recall fabulous ventricular cover images where the handsome prince winked. Such images are both enticing and scary — they suggest our toys may have had lives of their own.

A kid will think differently about yanking off teddy bear's arm when there might be a soul in its stuffing. Living dolls are a timeless fantasy, one most recently replayed, in glorious CGI, with

Toy Story, or in countless works of contemporary art photography in which plastic playthings enact adult situations.

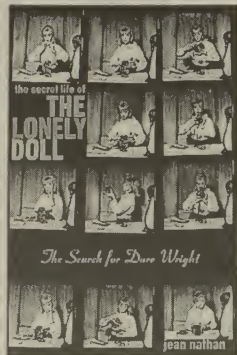
In the 1950s and '60s, in a best-selling children's series called *The Lonely Doll*, pert blonde author Dare Wright put her own childhood doll, Edith, and teddy bears through enough loaded scenarios to fuel a compulsively readable biography. *The Secret Life of the Lonely Doll*, journalist Jean Nathan's first foray into biography, uncovers a lonely creative woman whose broken family was riddled with supreme dysfunction.

Dare's persona was molded by her mother Edie, whose massive co-dependency lands her in the pantheon of Mommie Dearests. There may be some camp value in these pages — vain septuagenarian Mom wears towleed-on make-up, mini-skirts and go-go boots — but like those photo story-

books, there's something really creepy at the core. Dare's emotionally stunted subconscious desires play out in her lifelong doll play — and she turned it into a thriving career. Fittingly, the more culturally astute dress-up photographer Cindy Sherman's got a blurb on the back cover.

On the surface, what makes the story so engaging is the fact that Dare (who is still living) and her mother Edie are both artists with advanced skills in the creation of artifice. In a sense, their story is a showbiz tale. Edie was a noted portrait painter, who from her 20s had to support herself with her art, as her marriage to a deadbeat alcoholic ended in divorce, and dividing her two children between them.

Edie got Dare, and their dad, Ivan, took their son Blaine. Their lives were never meant to intersect again. Edie, attractive, talented



and driven, was a bit too self-absorbed to use motherhood to anything but her own ends. And so she essentially treated her daughter like a perfect doll herself. It was a role that she took to with surprising if painful agility.

Model behavior

Meek and well-behaved, Dare was also strikingly beautiful, and managed a lucrative career as a model who could embody a range of looks, illustrated here with lingerie ads. Yet she yearned to be behind the camera. She also was handy. In her early 20s, she was building spiffy new features, like a bathroom darkroom, into her tiny New York apartment, as well as making her own chic outfits.

This kind of self-made magic is highly entertaining, as is the way Dare stumbles across a formula to turn her eternal girlhood into a new life, in the form of photo storybooks starring her alter ego doll Edith (named after Mom) and companion bears. These were inanimate playthings whom Dare reportedly addressed

as living children, a habit that freaked out guests. The stories in *The Lonely Doll* series are ultimately parables for Dare's lost and curdled sense of family. In most, Edith, who looks a lot like Dare, invariably got a panty-revealing spank — and, at one point, is gagged and bound to a tree.

For her entire life, Dare was under the constant spell of her mother, with whom she shared a delusional fiction of a life. They would attend society parties, hang with health-food guru Gayelord Hauser and his handsome partner; and, most intriguingly, take long beach vacations together, during which they would both sunbathe nude, snapping photos of each other. The resulting pictures of the comely young woman have erotic overtones, yet according to Nathan, the perpetually childlike Dare was extremely uncomfortable with the prospect of sex. While courted by many rich, handsome men, she always bolted.

Secret Life is a classic rise-and-fall story. It's a marvel the way that Dare is able to succeed in spite of the psychological odds, yet the tragic end is telegraphed up-front. As the book progresses, the psychological underpinnings make the book glide. The anticipated death of her mother sets the tailspin in motion, though it's the least satisfying portion of the book as it happens so quickly, like dolls going through the motions. Even so, Dare is such a glamorously troubled soul that her character reverberates beyond her fall. ▼

Looking for Mr. Benson

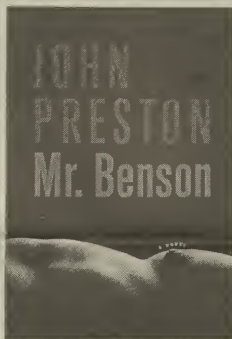
by Jim Nawrocki

Mr. Benson by John Preston;
Cleis Press, \$14.95

The fantasy offered up by John Preston's novel *Mr. Benson* is one of complete, total submission — the submission of one man to another, the submission of a slave to his master. There is a particular poignancy to the sexual milieu presented in Preston's erotic novel because it was written in the late '70s, just before the arrival of AIDS. Reissued now by Cleis Press, it's difficult to read *Mr. Benson* and not think of it as a depiction of a world long gone.

It is also a depiction of an unreal, idealized, and highly romanticized relationship. Preston draws his characters in very clear, simple terms. One could even refer to them as caricatures. This is, after all, an erotic novel. Jamie, the slave-to-be, is a beautiful and cocky young man who is used to getting what he wants, and not used to having to work for the attention of the men he desires. Aristotle Benson, the master, is almost too good to be true: he's handsome and successful, youthful but authoritative. And from the moment he meets young Jamie, he is in complete control of him.

Ultimately, this is an erotic fantasy about control. For all the raw sex that's depicted in this story, the most erotic aspect of the tale is Preston's focus on the psychological nature of the master-slave relationship. The very sound of Mr. Benson's commanding voice, the very thought of doing his bidding is enough to bring Jamie to the height of excitement. At one point, as Jamie describes being penetrated by Mr. Benson, he reflects that Mr. Benson is "pulling away at the very being



and center of my body, grabbing my soul."

Jamie's introduction to Mr. Benson is also his introduction to the world of "The Topmen," a dark, secretive club to which Mr. Benson belongs. It is within their circle that Jamie gets his first lessons in submission, and these lessons are taught in ways that will be difficult for those with weak stomachs to read. In addition to lurid sexual detail, Preston also presents an amusing array of domination motifs, many of them dictated by racial animosity. One of Mr. Benson's best friends is an African-American top who admits that he likes nothing more than seeing a young white slave licking his boots. In another key scene, a group of Arab tops take pleasure in buying and selling kidnapped young white men. These Middle-Easterners take particular pride in dominating "the pride of American manhood." In light of today's climate of terrorism, these passages have a disturbing prescience.

As the story of Jamie's apprenticeship to Mr. Benson unfolds, it becomes complicated by a mystery: certain young gay men are

disappearing, and Jamie and a friend suspect that the Topmen are responsible. Like some leather-inspired version of the Hardy Boys, they set out to solve the mystery. They do, but not before some interesting adventures along the way.

Preston's novel, formulaic as it is, is an intriguing example of '70s-era erotica that still has the power to titillate and entertain. ▼

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Chanticleer

◀ page 36

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare by Mark Mardon



Drag divas Juanita More! and Glamore light up the Great American Music Hall on Monday night in a musical benefit for the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center (TARC).

'Live and in Drag' for TARC

Juanita More! and Glamore will be taking center stage at the Great American Music Hall this Monday night, October 18, turning San Francisco's best live music venue into the site for *Live and in Drag!* — a spectacular musical benefit for the Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center (TARC). This promises to be one of the most glittering fundraisers of the year, starring those crown jewels of the drag/celebrante/glitterati crowd, the fashionable Glamore and her pal, the drag queen I most adore, Juanita More!

"You'll be blown out of your seat!" exclaims Juanita when I ask her what to expect from this musical extravaganza. Of course I wouldn't mind being blown in my seat, but of all the drag performers I know, Juanita is the one who most inspires my fantasies, and I can pretty much guarantee she'll rouse the whole house.

"The show features segments of all those grand and glorious musical wonders," she tells me, "from the birth of vaudeville through movie musicals, disco, soul, and rock and roll." Juanita adds that she and best friend Glamore are kind of "like Bert and Ernie, Samson and Delilah, Bonnie and Clyde, Donny and Marie, Thelma and Louise, Laurel and Hardy, Sonny and Cher, and Ren and Stimpy." So... expect wild schizotypic musical madness! All very tastefully done, of course.

Ms. More! has a special place in her heart for TARC because "the clients of TARC are a part of my neighborhood. They are greatly overlooked by our community. When I first stepped into the TARC offices years ago, I was struck by the fact that I had recognized so many faces from my walks through the Tenderloin. Some of those faces I haven't seen since some long nights at the Trocadero."

Whatever issues you have about homelessness, active substance users, HIV and AIDS, adds Juanita, "you need to throw them out the door and support TARC! I love knowing that the community TARC supports benefits directly from this awesome event."

"Core to TARC's mission," says TARC's Executive Director, Tracy Brown, "is stabilizing the lives of homeless and marginally housed Tenderloin residents. Providing a basic service such as syringe exchange is a very important component in getting injection drug using residents to access care. The service can be the first opportunity in building a relationship with these residents in developing a plan to address their overall health and for them gaining access to the services they need to stabilize their lives."

This year's TARC awardees include Christina Deeb and Gina Milano of Bambuddha Lounge (Founders Award); SF AIDS Foundation HIV Prevention Project (Community Partner Award); and Folsom Street Events (Community Supporter Award).

No benefit would be complete without corporate sponsors, in this case including: The GAP, Marc Jacobs, Ira and Lenore Gershwin Trust, Abbott Laboratories, Henri Baumann, 7X7, Bambuddha Lounge, A Black Tie Affair, Buca di Beppo, Fleur de Lys, Hard Rock Cafe, Olive Works, Peets Coffee & Teas, Tin Pan, Tomales Bay Foods and Cowgirl Creamery. ▼

Live and in Drag takes place from 6-9 p.m. at Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell St. Tix/info: 415-923-6983; www.tarc.org.



Zoë Lewis brings her irresistible "worldbeat vaudeville" sound to Cafe Du Nord. See Wednesday.

Fr

Joe Goode's Disaster Series @ Zellerbach Playhouse, UC Berkeley

UC Berkeley's Department of Theater, Dance, and Performance Studies presents the world premiere of *Disaster Series - The Continuation*, choreographed, written, and directed by Joe Goode. Special guest performer Liz Burritt joined by a student cast of actors and dancers. \$14 gen'l; \$10 for UC faculty/staff; and \$8 for students/seniors. Performance times are Oct. 15 (8pm), Oct. 16 (8pm), Oct. 17 (2pm). Zellerbach Playhouse, UC Berkeley campus (on Spieker Plaza near the intersection of Bancroft Way and Dana Street). Tix: TicketWeb toll-free: (866) 468-3399; online www.ticketweb.com (search for UC Berkeley). Tickets may be purchased in-person at the Zellerbach Playhouse box office on Fridays from 1pm to 4pm. The box office also opens one hour prior to each performance for ticket sales. Info: theater.berkeley.edu

Geek-tique 3 — the Roadshow @ The LAB

Opening festivities: The LAB hosts BUILD's Geek-tique 3: The Geek-tique Roadshow. Produced by Eliot Lessing, Executive Director of BUILD, Geek-tique is an eccentric collectors' expo, essentially a large-scale community show-and-tell. The public is invited to showcase a selection of their personal and most treasured collections (antique sex toys, etc.) in a cutting-edge art venue. This is a viewing, sharing and educational event. No collections are for sale (aside from featured Geek-tique related works). Curated collections will be highlighted. Geek-tique hosts will interview "exhibitors" on camera in a format modeled after the PBS Series *The Antiques Roadshow*. Free (donations appreciated). 6-9pm opening festivities; 9-11pm Geek-tique A-Go-Go with DJ Neil Martinson. The LAB, 2948 16th St. (at Capp). Info: 415-864-8855; www.thelab.org

GuyWriters @ Magnet

GuyWriters, an organization for gay male writers in the SF Bay Area, presents an evening with Lawrence McNally, the distinguished playwright behind such smash Broadway hits as *Master Class*, *Lovelace*, *Valour*, *Compassion*, and *Ragtime*. McNally will talk about his successful career as a writer, then take questions from the audience. Free. 8pm. Magnet, 4122 18th St. Info: GuyWriters@yahoo.com

Fearless Dating @ AHP Services Center

AHP Services Center presents "Fearless Dating: How to say 'NO' and hear 'NO.'" Hearing that someone's not interested in you can

be difficult. And saying no to someone we're not interested in can be tough too. Come discuss how to handle rejection. 6:30-9:30pm. 1930 Market St. Register at 415-476-6448, ext. 1. Info: www.ucsf-ahp.org

Fresh Faces in Fashion @ Regency Center

Gen Art and True bring you "Fresh Faces in Fashion," the nationally acclaimed runway show, featuring nine of the hottest new fashion and accessories designers from the Bay Area, Los Angeles & New York. On the 60-ft. catwalk: Bell by Alicia Bell; Cari Boria; Pierce Couture; Hieros; Latifa; and Oliver Twist. Host committee includes Juanita More! along with Mayor Gavin Newsom, Kimberly Guilfoyle Newsome and others. Doors open 7pm; Fashion Show in the Grand Ballroom at 7:30pm. Accessories Designer Reception & After-Party: 8:15pm-12am in The Sutter Room. Gen'l Adm: Silver Gen Art Members: \$30, Nonmembers: \$40. VIP: Platinum Members: 2 complimentary tickets; Silver Members: \$90; Nonmembers: \$100. The Regency Center, 1300 Van Ness Ave. (at Sutter). Info: 415-284-9400; www.genart.org

Reflecting Images @ Cafe Tartine

Opening reception: Reflecting Images, a photography show of the male figure by a gay men's photo cooperative. Free. 6-10pm. Show runs thru Oct. 31. 244 Gough St. (at Fell). Info: 415-621-0895.

Commission '04 @ SF Art Commission Gallery

Opening Benefit & Exhibition: Commission '04. Writer-performer Beth Lisick (Monkey Girl); *This Too Can Be Yours* hosts a high-profile art auction featuring an all-star cast of artists and curators for this year's release of the SF Art Commission's third series of limited edition art collections. Live auction offering works by featured artists Larry Sultan and Todd Hido (photographers), and Kathryn Van Dyke (abstract painter). Two box collections for sale comprised of a collection of limited edition multiples (\$450 per box). "Mini boxes" priced at \$45. Special Installation by Tony Tredway. VIP Reception: 6-7:30pm, \$40. The Party: 7:30-11pm, \$25. Live Auction 8pm. 401 Van Ness Ave. Tix/info: 415-554-6080; www.sfartgallery.org

Endi Poskovic @ Tinnhorn Press/Gallery

Opening reception: Endi Poskovic, a 34-year-old Sarajevo-born woodblock artist/visual storyteller with themes of voyage and displacement at the center of his work, often juxtaposing images with text. Free. 6-8:30pm (intro to the artist & brief discussion of his work at 7pm). Show runs thru Nov. 21 at 511 Laguna St. Info: 415-621-1292; www.tinnhorn-gallery.com



Ornately costumed dancers and musicians from Kerala, India perform *Gods, Goddesses & Ancestors* at UC Berkeley's Zellerbach Hall. See Sunday.

Divine @ Cherry Bar

Join EQCA, NCLR and Cherry Bar for an evening of socializing, wine tasting, martinis and music at Divine, a Women's Club that gives away money and welcomes men. Hosted by: Chris Carnes (Carnes Productions), Mariah Hanson (Cherry Bar), Kate Kendall (NCLR), Molly McKay (EQCA), Alison Terry-Evans (Hill-Girlz.com), Mindy Bokser (BACW), Heather Findlay (Girlfriends Magazine), Franco Stevens (Curve Magazine), Sallyanne Monti (Queer Stuff Enterprises, Inc.), and Absolut Vodka. This month is all about dancing! DJ's play a mix of old school, house, club classics and current dance music, including your requests. \$5 after midnight... and then it's 100% hip hop! 100% of net door proceeds go directly to EQCA and NCLR earmarked toward efforts to win gays/lesbians the right to marry! A portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Heather Hiles Campaign for Re-election. Enjoy premium-wine flights, good conversation, and networking. Full Bar available. Attire is dressy. \$10 b4 midnight; \$5 after (wine flights are additional cost). Cherry Bar, 917 Folsom St. Info: 415-974-5906; www.thecherrybar.com

Italian Gems @ Herbst Theatre

Humanities West presents Italian Gems: Urbino, Mantua and Ferrara, the first two day of (Oct. 15-16) lecture/performance program of its 2004-05 season. Tonight at 8pm: *Portraits of Power*, a lecture by UCLA Art History Prof. Joanna Woods Marsden. From the patronage of the courts of the Gonzagas, the D'Estes and the Duke of Montefeltro came works by Bellini, Mantegna, Pisanello, Piero della Francesca and Titian. Live music performance at 9pm: *A Night at Ferrara*, a showcase of Renaissance music from Ferrara. Italian Gems continues Saturday starting at 10am with two lectures before lunch, live music after, two more lectures, and concluding with a 4pm panel discussion. Presented in cooperation w/Consul General of Italy. Main Floor/Grand Tier, Friday only: \$35. Saturday only: \$40. Both Fri. & Sat: \$70. Balcony: \$30 Fri; \$35 Sat. Students: \$20 Fri. or Sat. 401 Van Ness Ave. (at McAllister). Tix/info: 415-391-9700; www.humanitieswest.org

Sat 16

Caetano Veloso/SF Jazz Fest @ Masonic Auditorium

A correspondent writes: "Phil Campbell here, pushing Caetano Veloso's (the legendary Brazilian superstar-songwriter) appearance Sat. night 10/16 at the Masonic Auditorium. He will be singing songs from his *A Foreign Sound* CD (standards in English by everybody from Cole Porter to Kurt Cobain). 'The Man I Love' is one of the standouts on the disc — let's hope he sings it in concert!" Phil knows his stuff and can be trusted on this. Welcome to São Francisco, Caetano! Plus: Don't miss pianist extraordinaire Brad Mehldau on Oct. 22, Etta James

on Nov. 6, and a whole bunch of other jazz greats in between at multiple fine venues around town. \$25 / \$35 / \$52 / \$67. 8pm. Masonic Auditorium, at California & Taylor (easy access by California Street cable car and #1 California bus). Tix/info: 415-788-7353; www.sfjazz.org; www.caetanoveloso.com.br/

THRIVE @ The Center

Thrive: a social group of guys, gay HIV+, breaking the isolation of HIV and not only surviving the disease, but thriving in spite of it. Donation suggested. 1-3 pm. First Floor - Room: Q13, The LGBT Community Center, 1800 Market (at Octavia). For more info and other social events, join the email list: thriving-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

Spell — 13 Invocations for World Peace @ SomArts Cultural Center

Dance Brigade with SomArts Cultural Center present: *Spell — 13 Invocations for World Peace*. A 13-day collaboration that incorporates art, activism and spirituality in an energetic invocation for social change. Featuring Dance Brigade, Keith Hennessy/Circo Zero, Copper Wimin (Oct. 21-Nov. 2) and Holly Ren (Oct. 16 & 17 only) in conjunction with Rene Yanez's Day of the Dead gallery installation. At the start of the program, the exterior of SomArts will stage an explosion of ritual and magic: aerial dance and taiko drumming; text poetry and singing to invoke an elemental world of fairies, banshees, seers, prophets and witches (dress warm). The audience will then proceed inside to the installation, an impassioned plea for peace and justice, and on into the cavernous inner space where Dance Brigade will create a focused, intentional circle for a better world. \$17 adv.; \$20 day of show. All shows 8pm (except Sun. at 7pm). SomArts Cultural Center, 934 Brannan St. (at 9th St.). Tix: Modern Times Books (888 Valencia St.), Change Makers (6536 Telegraph Ave., Oakland); Dance Mission Box Office. 415-273-4633. Info: www.dancemission.com

Sex Positive @ ATA Gallery

ATA Gallery's Other Cinema presents "Sex Positive," a triple-premiere event celebrating empowered women in the sex industry: Louisa Achille's *The Naked Feminist*, Sylvia Schedelbauer's *Chisakura Girls*, and Julia Ostertag's *SexJunkie*. Plus historical teasers and Robbyn Leonard's installation, "Perversion for Profit." No-host bar. \$5. Doors open 8pm. Artists' Television Access, 992 Valencia St. Info: 415-824-3890; www.othercinema.com

100 Dates In One Night @ Congregation Sha'ar Zahav

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav hosts "100 Dates in One Night: A Jewish Dating Game." The Bay Area's second annual LGBT "Jewish Dating Game" and mixer, facilitated by professional matchmaker Joel Koosed, founder of The Meeting Game. Meet dozens of prospective dates during an evening of lively, structured, and playful group interaction. This dating game concept was originated in

1999 by Jewish Rabbi Yaacov Deyo to facilitate intra-faith marriages. \$25 advance, \$30 at door. 7:00 pm. Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores St. (at 16th St.) For more information visit: www.shaarzahav.org or call: 415-861-6932

Jenni Olson

@ Main Library

Queer Movie Marketing Mania—Film historian Jenni Olson presents a colorful crash-course in queer film history via a selection of posters from her new book, *The Queer Movie Poster Book* (Chronicle Books) as well as clips from her new vintage gay movie trailer DVD, *Homo Promo* (Strand Releasing). Reception following program; books and DVDs will be available for sale/signing. Main Library, Lower Level, Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room, 2pm, 100 Larkin St. (at Grove).

Sun 17

Way Cool

@ Roxie Cinema

Back by popular demand: *Way Cool: RNC* not seen on TV, a Video Diary by Marc Huestis (Sex Is...). Inspired by Haskell Wexler's 1969 title *Medium Cool*, Huestis's *Way Cool* captures the compelling sights and sounds of the streets of NYC during the Republican National Convention. From the rooftops in Brooklyn displaying signs opposing Bush that could be seen by incoming flights, to the more than 500,000 people who took place in the largest street protest against a political convention; from the FOX "Shut Up A Thorn" where more than 750 shouted out their feelings toward FOX TV, to a labor rally of over 10,000 featuring a rousing speech by Sopranos star James Gandolfini, to a "Pink Slip" protest with people standing in symbolic unemployment lines. \$7. Sundays at 12 noon. Roxie Cinema, 3117 16th St. (at Valencia). Info: 415-863-0611.

Groucho

@ Jon Sims Center

Reading of *Groucho*, the screenplay by Tina D'Elia and Michael La Rocco. Directed by Michael La Rocco. Starring: Vilma Vitiana, Ed Vassergian, Wilma Bonet, Jim Cranna, Tina D'Elia, Mary Guzman, Connie Champagne, Meliza Banales, Prado Gomez, Amos Glick, Victor Toman, and more! A benefit for Jon Sims Center for the Arts. \$5. 7pm. Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission St. (at 11th St).

Gods, Goddesses & Ancestors

@ Zellerbach Hall

Cal Performances presents *Gods, Goddesses & Ancestors: Music, Dance & Rituals of Kerala, India*, featuring a 5-member troupe of vibrantly costumed male dancers and musicians who recreate the magic, myth, and sacred drama of the theyyam, "possession ritual" dances from India's southernmost state. \$22, \$30 & \$42. 7pm. UC Berkeley campus. Info: www.calperfs.berkeley.edu

SF Hiking Club

@ Castle Rock

Enjoy a hike through the autumn foliage of mixed forests to Indian Summit, and Castle Rocks for great views of the San Jose area. It's a moderate 9-mile hike with a 1,000-ft. elevation gain. Meet 8:30am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Info: 415-487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

Hiccup! @ Corona Heights Park

Get it on at Hiccup! — a queer and genderfuk playground. Bring your frisbee, football, basketball, tennis shoes, wrestling shoes, black boots, bell bottoms, imagination, snazzaroons, snacks, toilet paper, energy for playing, cheering or watching, chapstick, lipstick, vasoline, water balloons. where: Corona Heights Park, States Street off Castro (up the hill from the gas station). Free! Noon to 3 pm (or later). Info: groups.yahoo.com/group/kitology_hiccup/

Q-Tango Tea Dance @ Synergy School

"Q-Tango Tea Dance" (every 3rd Sunday), an Argentine Dance workshop and Milonga at Synergy School. No partner or experience



Activists rebel against the strong-arm tactics of the Republican National Convention (RNC) in Marc Huestis's *Way Cool* at Roxie Cinema. See Sunday.

needed. Beginners Tango workshop at 4pm; Milonga Practica from 5:30-7pm (dance to traditional and contemporary Argentine Tango music). \$10 donation; free if under 21; half off if enrolled in Monday or Wednesday Swing, Salsa or Waltz Classes. All ages. Synergy School, 1387 Valencia St. (at 25th St., near 24th St. BART). Info: 415-305-8242; www.QueerBallroom.com

Victorian House Tour

The Victorian Alliance of SF presents its Annual House Tour of interiors of restored historic homes in the Fair Oaks Neighborhood. This year's proceeds will be donated to the Campaign to Save the Golden Gate Windmills. The tour, enjoyed at your own pace, features homes located along the tree-lined streets in the Fair Oaks and Dolores Street neighborhood. Shuttle between houses available. Register for door prizes. Light refreshments. \$25 gen'l; \$20 senior. 1-5pm. Tix available on day of tour starting at 1pm at 3500 21st St. (at Dolores).

Ken Miller & SF Prime Timers

@ Unitarian Church

Ken Miller of San Francisco Prime Timers (The Former G40+ Club) will give "A Gay Man's Reflections on the Middle East: A History of Gays in the World of Islam and Their Role Today." Ken is always thought-provoking and entertaining. Refreshments served at meeting's end. Donations appreciated (that will be passed). 2-4pm. First Unitarian Universalist Church, 1187 Franklin (at Geary). Info: 415-648-8678.

Spectrum 2 - Art Attack @ Mezzanine

The Bay Area's best artists donate their work for Access Institute's Spectrum 2 - Art Attack. Enjoy cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and a silent and live auction. Winning bidders go home with an item selected from more than 50 works of art. Individual tickets \$100. Host sponsorships from \$250 to \$10,000. 6-9pm. Mezzanine, 444 Jessie St., at Mint. For a list of artists and to preview their work, visit www.accessinst.org. Tix/info: (415) 677-8688.

Mon 18

Tony Kushner

@ Herbst Theatre

City Arts & Lectures continues its 24th Annual Literary Events series benefiting the 826 Valencia Scholarship Program with Pulitzer prize/Tony Award/Oble Award-winning playwright Tony Kushner (*Angels in America* Slavs; *Homebody* Kabul, interviewed by SF Chronicle theater critic Rob Hurwitz. Kushner is nominated for a Tony award for his musical collaboration, *Caroline, or Change*. The gay Jewish socialist raised in Louisiana and educated at Columbia U. and NYU is the author of numerous essays on topics ranging from bigotry to war, faith, love, AIDS, and gay rights. \$18.50. 8pm. Tix: City Box Office, 415-392-4400.

TARC Benefit @ Great American Music Hall

The Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center (TARC) Annual Fall Benefit 2004 presents: *Live and in Drag!* starring those crown jewels

of the drag/celebrante/glitterati crowd, Juanita Morel and Glamamore. \$100. 6-9pm. Great American Music Hall, 859 O'Farrell St. Tix/info: 415-923-6983; www.tarc.org. See "Calendar" for details.

Kelly Cresap

@ A Different Light Bookstore

Kelly Cresap analyzes Warhol's persona as revolutionary performance artist in *Pop Trickster Fool: Warhol Performs Naivete* (University of Illinois Press). Cresap performs a nearly impossible task: accounting for the far-ranging implications of Warhol's sustained performance as a naïf. Free. 7pm. 489 Castro St. Info: 415-431-0891

Tue 19

Solo Piano X 3 (Vol. 2)

@ Intersection

Jazz at Intersection Fall 2004 Series presents Solo Piano X 3 (Volume 2): Mark Levine, Susan Mascarella & Adam Shulman, showcasing a broad range of jazz piano styles by outstanding artists. \$12-\$15 sliding. 8pm. Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia St. (btwn 15th/16th). Tix/info: 415-626-3311; www.theintersection.org

Cyber Center Re-Opening @ The Center

Opening reception: The SF LGBT Community Center invites all to the Grand Re-Opening of the new and improved David Bohnett Cyber Center. Celebrate a generous donation from the David Bohnett Foundation allowing The Center to upgrade machines and monitors. Free. 6pm-8pm. The Center, 1800 Market St. The Cyber Center is volunteer staffed; to join the team email info@sf-center.org. If you have kids, bring them to the Center's KidSpace while you enjoy the event! Contact Arianne Copeland, kidSpace Coordinator for reservations/info: 415-865-5553; arianne@sfcenter.org

Wed 20

Zoë Lewis

& Brian Joseph

@ Café Du Nord

Winners of the 2004 Rocky Mountain Folks Festival Troubadour Competition, kindred souls Zoë Lewis & Brian Joseph play Café Du Nord as part of a west-coast tour. Your calendar editor has listened to Lewis's new album, *Small is Tremendous* (www.zoewis.com) — and it's tremendous! She calls her music "worldbeat vaudeville," which basically affirms it's lively and joyful, open-minded and sassy, without being cloying or annoying. You're guaranteed a great time. Joseph (www.brianjosephmusic.com) is said to have an "intelligent, politically conscious urban-folk sound." \$10. 9pm. 2170 Market St. Info: 415-861-5016.

Smack Dab @ Magnet

Smack Dab, an open mic hosted by Kirk Read and Larry-bob Roberts, with featured writers Judith Jordan and David Henry Sterry. Jordan's work includes the musical *No Easy Answers*; the

play *A Year in the Life*; *Suspected Genderist*, a collection of short skits; the novel *Flawed Jewels*, and multiple collections of short stories and poems. Sterry is both writer of and performer in the one-man show *Chicken*, based on his bestselling memoir *Chicken: Self-Portrait of a Young Man for Rent* (ReganBooks/HarperCollins: 2002), which HBO is making into a TV series. He is the author of *Satchel Sez: The Wit, Wisdom & World of Leroy "Satchel" Paige* (Crown/Random House, 2001). Bring five minutes of words, music, comedy or miscellany. All ages and genders welcomed & adored. Free. 7:30pm sign-up, 8pm show. Magnet, 4122 18th St. (btwn Castro & Collingwood).

Thu 21

Queer Beats

@ Diesel, Oakland

Diesel, A Bookstore welcomes Regina Marler for a reading and discussion of *Queer Beats* (Cleis Press), describing the Beat writers as *queer in the fullest sense of the word: their fluid sexuality challenged all sexual and romantic conventions*. Free. 7:30pm. Diesel, A Bookstore, 5433 College Ave., Oakland. Info: 510-653-9965.

GGBA Gala @ The Regency Center

Join the Golden Gate Business Association (GGBA) for "Beyond the Dream," an evening of lively entertainment and fun acknowledging this year's contributors to the LGBT Business Community and thirty years of community leadership from the GGBA, the nation's first LGBT Chamber of Commerce. Aerial Performances by Zeina, as seen in *Cirque du Soleil*; Keynote speaker: Arminstead Maupin, author of *Tales of the City*; auction by KRON TV's movie critic Jan Wahl. \$140 gen'l; \$190 VIP. 5:30-6:30pm VIP Reception; 6-7pm Cocktails, registration, silent auction; 7pm buffet dinner; 7:20pm Awards presentations; 8pm entertainment begins. Regency Center, 1290 Sutter St. Info: www.ggba.com

Boxcar Satan

@ Eagle Tavern

Thursday Night Live at The Eagle welcomes the bands Boxcar Satan of San Antonio, Texas, and the San Diego bands Upsilon Acrux and Bad Dudes (ex-Miracle Chosuke). \$5-\$6 cover. 21+. 9pm-ish. Eagle, 12th and Howard. Info: www.sf.eagle.com

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

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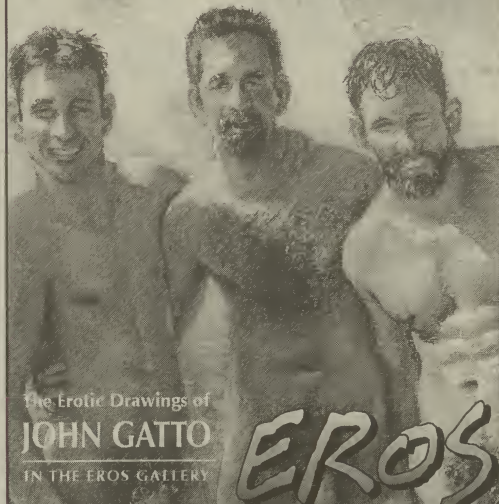
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Mid-Atlantic sweep!

Int'l Sir/boy Robert Davis & Ivan Reyes

by Mister Marcus

The Mid-Atlantic Region of the International Sir and boy roster swept the two titles for this year last Saturday night, October 9 at the Sun Coast Resort in St. Petersburg, Florida. Hundreds of loyal fans took over the entire resort for a record attendance in the history of the title.

American, Canadian, European and Cuban leather men and women were on hand for a scintillating weekend that pooh-poohed dire predictions by a disgruntled former "Drummer" flunkie who bitchily referred to this event as the "hurricane season beauty contest of Tampa Bay." This by someone who oversaw the demise of a cherished leather institution and was a former IML contestant, who didn't make the cut and will forever be a bitter mess. The printed greeting in the ILSb 2004 program laid the pedantic culprit out in no uncertain terms. This leather community has no time, inclination or intention to analyze, agree or even bother to read the rants of a disgruntled poor loser and pedantic pundit.

On the lighter side, the show must go on and indeed it did with a flourish last weekend as eleven leather Sirs and eleven leather boys faced nine judges on Friday and Saturday in the usual categories. They accumulated an \$11,600 travel fund for the winners in a lengthy but spirited basket auction that saw **Frank Nowicki**, **Connie Cox** and **Jeffrey Adler** doing the honors.

Attired in children's "Twinkle" costume, former International Mr. Drummer **Jeffrey Adler** had the audience in stitches as he auctioned off several baskets. He literally squeezed thousands of dollars in cash, checks and credit cards out of the somewhat recalcitrant crowd with mild sarcasm, wit and fun. It was a combination of **Lenny Broberg**, the inimitable "Lurch" and **Thom Rodgers** with a **Danny Williams** sassiness that had the crowd in stitches, if not rolling on the floor. Good show!

Adding to the spirited weekend, four men were competing for the first-ever International Community Bootblack title, complete with judges.

The suspense was everywhere. The ILSb Class of 2004 was an outstanding batch of real "players." All day Saturday, observers



Meet 2004 International Leather boy **Ivan Reyes** (left) and Sir **Robert Davis** from the Mid-Atlantic Leather region. The duo were chosen last Saturday, October 9 in St. Petersburg, Florida. They will share an \$11,600 travel fund raised by the annual basket auction.

were spouting on and on about their "favorites" and for a while, it looked like it was narrowed down to three. By noontime, three "different" predictions were being offered. By 1500, it was back to the morning three... and on and on. I have never seen so much speculation, prediction and fervor about contestants! It was the same with the boys, and bets were being made all over the place. I'll never know who won the bets.

Saturday night, the long line to get into the contest venue moved rapidly as volunteers processed tickets, will-calls, "special people," the press and curiosity seekers. One of the boy contestants was jittery about his parents being in the audience. "Mom" was spotted wearing her son's title vest. **Tom Stice**, that gracious Southern gentleman, took it upon himself to sit with Mom and explain all facets of the ILSb process to her. She loved it!

The national anthem, parade of colors, thank you's and accolades were interspersed with the contest categories. Great speeches, very imaginative, serious and comical fantasies gave the audience a thrill and of course, the "holy cows" of leatherdom were announced.

Tally master **Jim Raymond** assisted by former IL Sir **Dale Breunig** crunched the scores

rapidly. A pair of gymnasts provided the audience with an outstanding display of acrobatic thrills to loud applause.

The atmosphere was electric throughout the three-hour show that was without a single glitch. No sound problems, no lighting problems, no audience heckling, and no long boring speeches! Sir **Mike Russell** and Boy **Titus** delivered crisp stepping-down speeches that both came in under six minutes! The contestant speeches were intelligent, interesting and fervent.

The jock category came last — and what a display of pulchritude! MC **Frank Nowicki** did another superb job, moving the action along precisely, with absolutely no glitches.

The moment of truth arrived around 10:45 p.m. with the announcement that **Spencer "Cub" Jasper** of the Great Lakes Region was the winner of the new bootblack title, and **Kelley Wilt** of the Northwest Region, the runner-up.

The Golden Whip Award (this year voted on by the Sirs, the boys and the judges) was given to South Central Sir **Dan Azevedo**.

Next up: International Leather boy. The results: 2nd runner-up **Phil Nickerson** (San Francisco); 1st runner-up **Timm Briggs** (Seattle); and the 2004 International Leather boy is **Ivan Reyes** (Mid-Atlantic Region).

A hush fell over the audience
next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Weekend, October 15-17

Central California Leather Fest in Fresno and the Mr. Central California Leather contest. \$85 for weekend package, vendor fair, fetish ball. For info: www.kofmfresno.com.

Mr. Oklahoma Leather contest in Tulsa at Club Maverick. Keith Hunt sashes his successor. Weekend package is \$65. For info: www.tulsaleather.com.

Rio Grande Leather Weekend in Albuquerque. Saturday, workshops, lunch, "vignettes" during the day and contest that night. Lori Ellison and "Sarge" step aside. Weekend package is \$50. Info: cheshlthr@aol.com.

Friday, October 15

Exiles of SF present "Six Bondage Tricks for Your

Toy Bag" at the Women's Bldg. Doors open 1930, program at 2000

Saturday, October 16

SF Girls of Leather soda/beer bust at the Eagle Tavern from 1500 to 1900 with 50/50 raffle, boot-black, and spanking booth.

Avatar in Los Angeles Officer's Installation Dinner at Tantra Restaurant on Sunset. For info: (562) 756-0600.

Weekend, October 21-24

Former Mr. Ottawa Leather Alex's film, "My Leather Jacket" debuts at Cine Kink Film Festival in New York. See: www.cinekink.com/program.

My guys, my Thais

by John F. Karr

Buying *Guys Gone Wild* was a sperm-of-the-moment thing for me, but it was such surprising and sexy fun that I wrote about it right off. Fortunately, a subsequent conversation with the DVD's spokesman set me straight on a couple of vital issues.

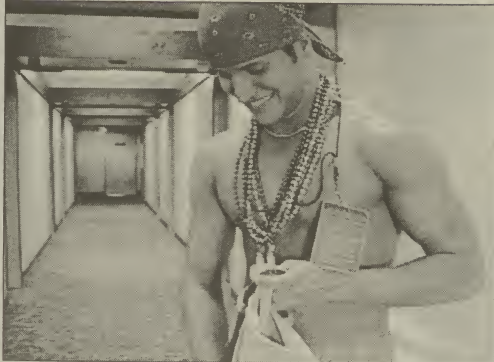
There's a reason *Introducing GGW*, the title I got in a chain store, has such goofy energy. It's a compendium of the liveliest but not necessarily the raciest moments in the three-part series, which includes *GGW Spring Break* and *GGW Frat Boys*. There's stuff in the first one that's not in the next two, but the anthologized scenes reappear in unedited, and need I say, more fulfilling versions. What, you ask? Unedited? Yes, just like porn, with its Director's Cut editions that have sensational footage you can only get by mail order, the retail version of *Introducing GGW* does not include the hard-ons and touching. And please, don't pay more than 20 bucks for *GGW*. I

recommend the website, the only place where you can get what the sticker on the box calls "Huge Bonus Footage!" along with a combined bargain price for all three DVDs.

By porn standards, the Bonus isn't really all that huge, but it is hard, and the dude sporting it just loves the attention it gets. What got me through was the reaction of the all-girl film crew. They're flabbergasted when Mr. Hard-On twitches his cock. "Can you do that in a girl?" they ask. They've never seen, mind less felt, a boner bump? Incredible. Later, these bumpkins play a gleeful round of Penis Ring-Toss with another amiable dude's hardened dick.

The series' cutest boy is in the first volume. But the biggest penis is in *GGW Spring Break*, happily bounced around by its proud owner. And when a sweetie is asked, "What's the wildest thing you've ever done?" he has to think about it. "Skinny-dipping," he says, while shaving his crotch in a shower for an all-girl camera crew as nonchalantly as if that were an everyday event.

GGW Frat Boys has another crotch-shaver. The fraternity must



Chris is one of the delicious treats in store in the *Guys Gone Wild* trilogy.

be Alpha Pubis Shavis. Quite deliciously, the majority of boys in all three editions are nearly or completely trimmed. And this last title has the best dancer, a dirty-blonde teaser whose incredibly lascivious moves are gonna be copped by ho-moboy around the world.

For a dish fest more fun than the Oscars, be sure you watch these three happy throwaways with friends. www.guysgonewild.com



Sucker punch

I hadn't seen a movie with an all-Thai cast, and stupidly presumed this meant Exotic Productions' *Lolicock* was made in Thailand. But it's San Fernando Valley all the way, whether or not it was

actually filmed there, with hackneyed plot-hooks that are nonsensically edited, storefront sets, muddling music, and mechanical run-through of a short sexual menu: shallow cocksucking, touch of rimming, and minimal-exertion fucking that ends in duo jack-off. The partners remain non-responsive throughout. The boys are passably attractive, winsome more than sexy, their youth authenticated by a touch of acne. They have slender limbs, tight scrotal sacks, and hairless bodies. Yet, as coupled or directed here, they're pretty sexless.

Lolicock has one solo, a model "auditioning" for a photographer, and three duo scenes, the boss hiring an assistant for the packing room, and a nerdy-cute computer geek hooking up in a chat-room. The third sequence finds a pair of enlisted men reunited after a long separation. Hardly ecstatic, however, they skip fond embraces for much mutual scrubbing in a shower. Their sex moves directly to a fuck that's more energetic than the previous scene's, but which brought me to realize the entire movie's pronounced lack of kissing. These "lovers" move quickly to the same short-list of sex activities demonstrated before. Is this cultural, I wondered, or just the lackluster direction of prolific but unimaginative pornographer Oggi?

Or are these boys gay-for-pay, who'll rim and suck, but resist something as personal as kissing? Who knows. Or cares. Unless the mere sight of two Thai boys together does it for you, I don't think you'll find *Lolicock* effective. Still, it must be working for somebody — this is #16 in a series! www.rad-video.com; (800) 722-4336 ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

as 2nd runner-up Sir was **Michael Aman** (Southeast region) was announced, then 1st runner-up **Dan Azevedo** (South Central Region), meaning the big winner is International Leather Sir 2004 **Robert Davis** (Mid-Atlantic Region).

Bedlam ensued in the house, with cameras flashing, loud cheering, posing for the press, well-wishing, and hugs all around from all the other contestants, a rush to the stage by other title holders to welcome Ivan and Robert to the "family," and friends and admirers standing in a long "receiving" line.

Now it's on to another full year of fun and fundraising. International Leather Sir/boy 2005 will not be staged at the Sun Coast Resort. Negotiations are under way

with venues in Charlotte, North Carolina and Atlanta, Georgia. You'll know as soon as I get the decision from Mike Zuhl. If you missed this year's edition, try to get there next year. You will not be disappointed.

Meanwhile...

As all this was going on in Florida, the third Mr. East Coast Rubber contest was taking place at Renegades in New York City. Five contestants played to a packed house. Apparently they had to perform fantasies. My source says the winner performed an "amazing fantasy" to the music from the *South Park* song, "Uncle Fucker".

The winner is "Rubber Larry". I am assuming this winner will advance to compete for the Mr. International Rubber competition later this year in Chicago at the world-famous Cell Block, but don't quote me as the press release I received was brief. ▼



International Community Boot-black winners: Spencer "Cub" Jasper (standing), won the title, and Kelley Wilt is 1st runner-up.

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PARTING GLANCES

SF Renaissance Faire 8/29

You - cute guy in black Frameline T-shirt, who helped Juggler. I was in shorts, orange sleeved shirt. Never said hello, then had to go. Want to discuss faire/movies? ☎ 71386

Subway to Castro 8/26 10PM

You: Stuck-up, red-haired slut cruising seven/eight dudes in train. Me: One of those dudes. Which? You have to guess, you hot-sexy-filthy-disgusting pig! Love, Demura. ☎ 71388

Do I Know You?

You - nice, dark haired Tom out walking. Me - tall, bl/bln, tongue-tied. You came into my Corbett apt. lobby after bumping car in driveway. Second chance? ☎ 71394

N Judah Sept. 8 1:30pm

You: D & G blue top and cool GA sunglasses. Me: Dark suit. Would like to meet you - dinner sometime? ☎ 71397

Pharmacy In Kaiser Hospital

Geary St. - Fri. 09/17 - Around 6pm. We locked eyes. You in drop-off line - Me waiting in pick-up line. Again caught your eyes passing you on my way out. Me - glasses - jeans - holding gray jacket. Still interested? ☎ 71399

24 Hr Van Ness Gym: Tues/Thurs

You: Nice Asian, Glasses; Me: Tall, White guy, red tank, grey shorts. Occasionally smiled and said Hi. Sorry we didn't meet. Coffee? ☎ 71400

Parting Glances 9/25/04

Kaiser Pharmacy - 9-24-04. We met parking elevator - You, 4th floor. Me, 2nd. Did not have a chance to ask name or phone number. Please call me. ☎ 71401

Tues 9-28 2pm Muni M Outbound

I got on at Powell. You sitting by center door. Short sleeve shirt, 'stache. Me Tall 'stache, suede jacket - got off at Church. Felt energy in our glances. ☎ 71406

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Nice But Lonely in Santa Rosa
Hi boys! Where are you? I am looking for you. Me: 50, 5'6", 180 lbs. Want to show you & me a good time. Espero tenerle en mi brazos con amor. ☎ 71385

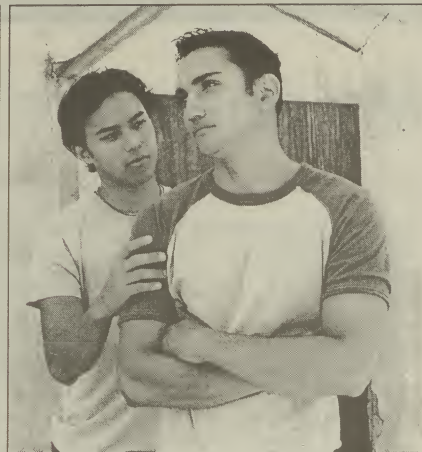
I May Be 66 5'5" 130# But Can
get it up. Gray hair clean shave seek black men over 40 for more than sex. No strings attached. Height/weight unimportant. Let's get down to it in the Haight. ☎ 71393

Looking For A Friend And More!
GWN, 42, 5'9", ISO. I like to hold hands in public, kiss in private, and cuddle after sex. I enjoy reading, writing, and anything related to the visual/performing arts! ☎ 71408

Older Seniors
WLM, 48, 6', 165 lbs. I enjoy being with older seniors who like a lot of affection, cuddling, kissing & other oral pleasures. Poss LTR. Bearded, loners, non-gym a plus! No gay scene or lifestyle. ☎ 71413

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Gay Artists - I'm looking for Gay
artists to discuss art, etc. I'd also like to have sex included. If you're interested, contact me. ☎ 71410



Spank Your Butt

Hot, masculine top, 38, 5'11" 175#, seeks well built bottom with nice ass for over the knee spanking, role playing and plowing your ass. ☎ 71383

ABC - Asian, Black Caucasian

East Bay, mature hung white male ISO versatile ABC's. Age no problem. Prefer Asian bottom, white/black tops. Got 7 and tight buns. ☎ 71387

I like Black or Latino Men

White male 48, healthy, HIV+, seeking 40 to 55 top black or Latino man, HIV+. Looking for fun, companionship and sex. The bigger, the better. ☎ 71390

Funky Men

WM 47, 6', 160lbs. I'm looking to get together with really funky guys - homeless guys, hobos, unshaven, sweaty, smelly, etc. - for hot, passionate, sensual times. Also interested in others who enjoy this scene. Over 40 a plus. No pain, S & M. ☎ 71391

Looking for Hung Guys! I'm

looking for guys who are hung "8" or "9" or "10", for fun, to watch videos, party, etc. Call Me. ☎ 71411

Very Funky Men

WM 47, 6', 160lbs. I'm looking to meet really funky guys - Hobo's, homeless men, unshaven, sweaty, smelly, etc. - for hot, passionate sensual times. Also interested in others who enjoy this scene. Over 40 a plus. No S & M or pain. ☎ 71395

Downtown Oakland Area Black Gent

50, 5'9", 180, balding, moustache. Seeking a mature, masculine oral expert, either clean shaven or moustache only, who's free weekday mornings for quick B.J's. ☎ 71404

Free Massage Wntd By Smooth Asian

Male. I am in shape, attractive. Want firm full body massage for long periods of time on my chest, buttocks, legs, nipples, feet, etc. Weekdays - days times preferred. ☎ 71405

ABC (Asian Black Caucasian)

White male in East Bay seeks ABC, any age. I am Top/Bottom for Asians and bottom for others. Love 69. Am HIV-, UB2, 5'8", 160, 50's, 7". ☎ 71407

Party Guy! I'm seeking a guy

I'm seeking guys who are quite endowed: "9" or "9 1/2" or "10". For fun, to watch DVD's or video's; party etc. Call me. "8" or "8 1/2" is OK. ☎ 71409

Hey Sacramento Oral Bottom Boy

is seeking those real men who travel through Sacramento on business,

etc... Let me get on my knees & deep throat your tool and ride my eager hungry tight pink hole. Plow, stretch, grind, my hungry hole & mouth. I'm here to please! Bring a buddy and repeat often. Me: 37yr, white, very handsome, swimmers build, flat stomach, tight smooth butt & W/E. My clean discreet place. Days. Yes. Sir. ☎ 71382

SFDowntown GayMale Lkg for Exam

Hello. My name is Joseph. I'm 61 yrs old 5'7" 150 lbs Lkgng for a gay male to exam my prostate. Want to be waken for you. ☎ 71396

Bubble Butt Bum?????

...or outdoor Bohemian??? Homeless dude, uncut, hairy, shaved head, 13EE sandals, for closeness, scenes, Boss! Tie me, cuddle me, take me to the fair! English/Welsh, hazel eyes. ☎ 71398

Guys Wanted For Orgy

If your interested in having a 3-way, 4-way, 5-way and you're hung, call me. If hung "7", but partners are "8" "9" or "10", OK. ☎ 71412

FETISHES

Like to Shave Down?

BI SWM masculine and goodlooking seeks partner for full body shave downs, nude beaches and sunbathing. Hot Sex also. ☎ 71380

ISO Nipple Workout Buddy

49 yr old GWM, stocky with huge erect nipples, BRN/BRN, salt&pepper goatee, tats, piercing's, smoker! ISO masculine, muscular, butch nipple pig. Nip workout buddy for serious nip workout sessions with growth in mind. Smoker A+. Call if interested. ☎ 71381

I Aim To Please

Affectionate masculine, endowed black ex-marine deeply turned on by old men with smelly foreskin. (Big noses, hands, feet, ears, eyes) Pipe, Cigar smokers & suspenders are also turn ons. ☎ 71384

Erotic Cockfishing

WM, 5'9", 160 lbs, ISO trim opponents 21-35 for nude combat with few rules. Be clean, hairy and endowed! ☎ 71402

J/O and Photo Fun!

GWM, 5'11" 175# Goodlooking masculine and hung. Likes to pose and j/o for your pleasure. I'm into mirrors, videos, nude beaches and love to fuck. Black guys a plus! ☎ 71403

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PERSONALS



World's largest bronze Buddha in the great Todaiji temple in Nara.



Godzilla statue in central Tokyo.

Out There

◀ page 30

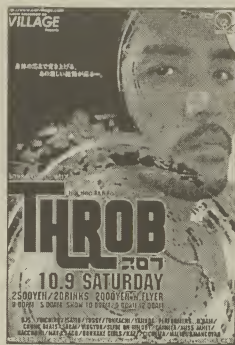
Godzilla. (*Godzillafest* coming to the Castro Theatre, Nov. 17-23.) A man put his Shih Tzu up to the monster in miniature, announcing, "Godzilla vs. Foofi!"

Gay lib is a fairly new idea in Japan: the first gay pride march in Tokyo was in '95, now every May. Spin-off lesbian march came in '97. Many bars with names like **Adonis** in the Shinjuku district are tiny and regulars-only. We found the Westerner-oriented bars, like **Advocates Bar & Café**, where a fellow traveler spotted a man he knew from **Gold's Gym/SF**.

Not only did we get lost in translation, we got lost in the Tokyo subway late one night. A Japanese businessman came to our rescue, pressed an intercom button in the wall, and a cop arrived within minutes. He guided us to a 10-minute tunnel walk that led us to our station. We got back to the hotel before the crew who had opted for a cab, as their driver had misunderstood their English and taken them far across town. We felt like great adventurers.

Kyoto kickin'

OT set off the metal detector at



Throb club at Village bar, Osaka.

Haneda airport, and because the security search more or less came down to our crotch, the rumor spread through the group that the alarms were set off by our **Prince Albert**. Which anyone who knows how squeamish we are will find rightly hilarious.

Visited spiritual sites **Kinkakuji** and the **Ryoanji** Zen temple. On the way to the world's largest bronze Buddha in **Todaiji** temple, tame deer bowed their heads to yours. Also nipped at you if you didn't have any more deer-cakes. Deer-ravaged *Q Vegas* editor: "That was a \$75 shirt!" Dinner at Kyoto's lovely river-terrace restaurant **Marunaka**: priceless.

At the **Okunoin** graveyard and **Torodo** temple in Koya-San, Japanese mosquitoes ate us alive. Mosquito in Japanese, perfectly onomatopoeic: *Ka!* That's what we said when we slapped at our neck and dispensed another one to its next life: *Ka!*

In the **Bacchus** bar in Osaka, the half-Korean bartender was welcoming and spoke English, but half the clientele was scared off by our large, somewhat drunken party. There was more action at **Explosion**. But we had taste enough of the gay nightlife in Japan to confirm it exists, though you'll probably wind up in a club that caters to Westerners. Much gay life seems on the down-low, but seek and you'll find it. Meanwhile you'll have discovered a uniquely cultivated culture, in a beautiful land with gracious people. ▼

Japan resources

For further information on:

Flights: jal.com

Accommodations: Capitol Tokyu Hotel, Tokyo: tokyuhotels.co.jp; Hotel Nikko Kansai Airport: nikkokix.com; Rihga Royal Hotel, Kyoto & Osaka: rihga.com

Attractions: Kingyo in Roppongi: kingyo.co.jp; Akihiro Miwa: www.o-miwa.co.jp

Restaurants: Tokyo: Tamasushi in Ginza, www.tamasushi.co.jp; Kyoto: Marunaka river-terrace, marunaka.cside3.com; Koya-san: shojin ryori lunch at Shojoshinin, japaneseguesthouses.com. Sake: sake.jal.com

Special thanks to Carol-san, Sugiyama-san, Noriko Moriyama, Fujiyo Naruse and the King of the Night!

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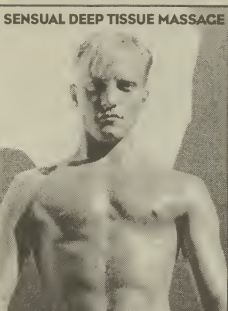
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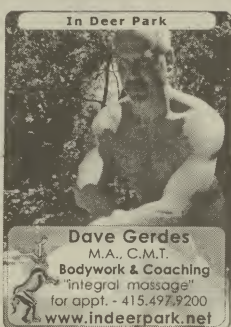
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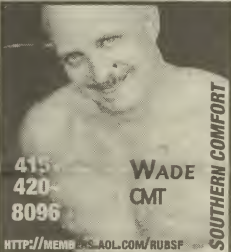
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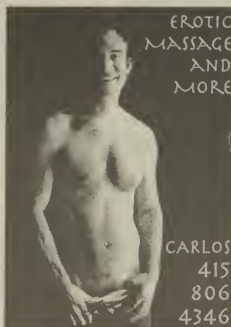
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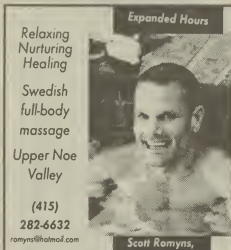
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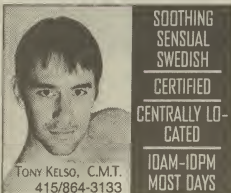
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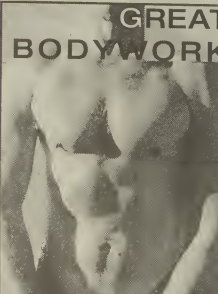
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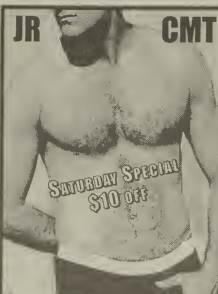
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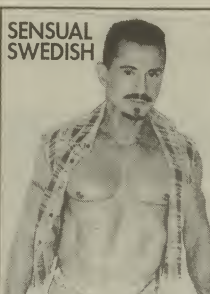
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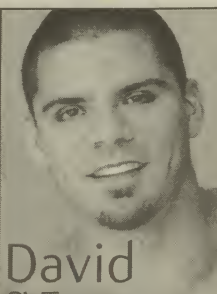


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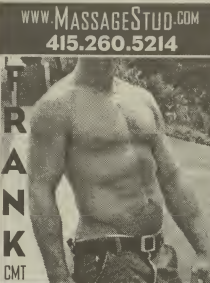
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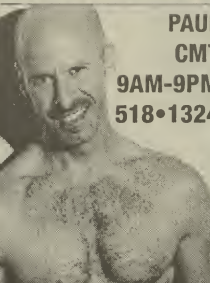
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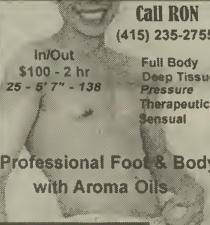
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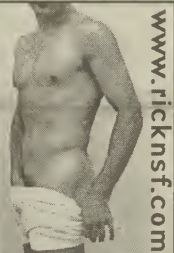
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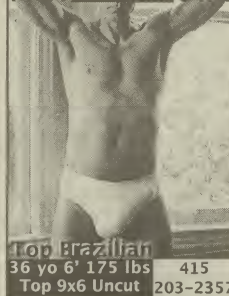
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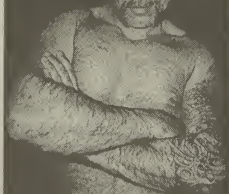
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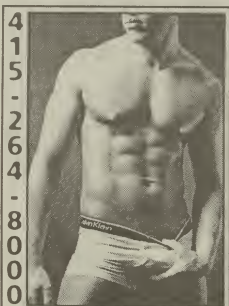
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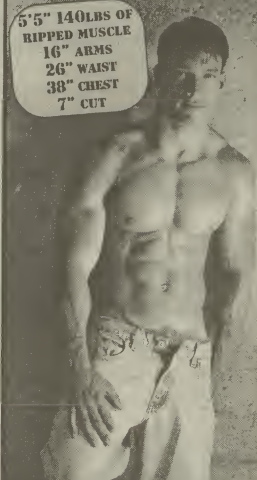
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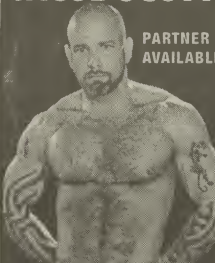
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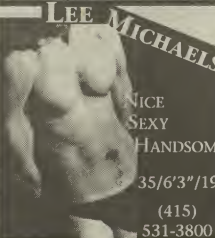
NO AREA CODE, NO CALL BACK
In or Out Calls Available

JACOB SCOTT

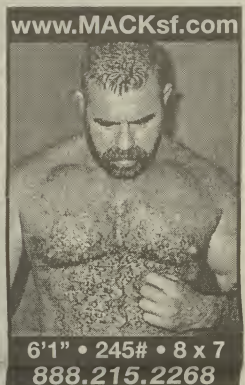
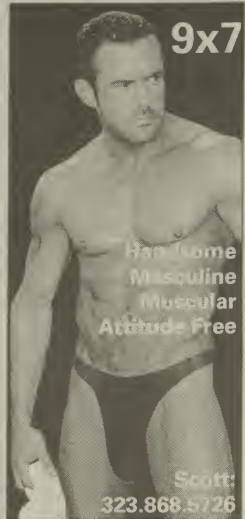


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Where to go and what to do with your Escort this week...

\$\$\$ Restaurants

Circolo - Potrero Hill

Good food, good service and FAB Chocolate Martinis!

Limon - Mission

New locale - new space, good food, and not yet taken over by
pretentious yuppies.

Not so \$\$\$ Restaurants

Julie's Supper Club - SOMA

A relaxed atmosphere, good eats and a fun crowd.

Rosamunde Sausage Grill - Haight

Bratwurst, knockwurst and chicken sausage made not with apple, but
cherries, and...smoked duck sausage - HELLO! Run, don't walk there.

Shoe Shopping

John Fluevog Shoes - Haight

Good atmosphere, great kicks, fun cute staff (say hi to Denny).

PEOPLE



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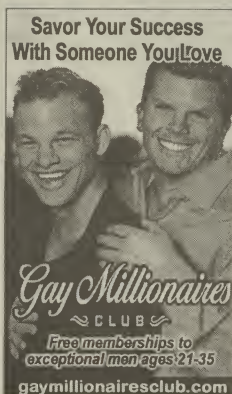
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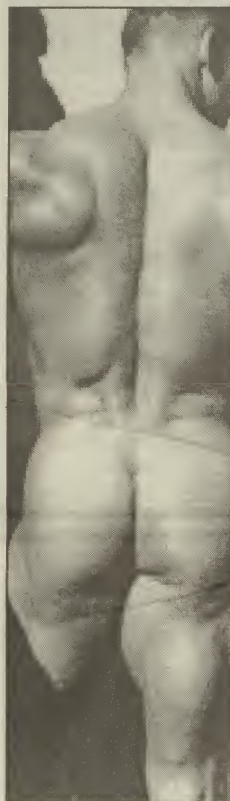
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